THE TIMES



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30p EVERY WEEKDAY

Nato sends in the bombers

Serbs facing attack as talks fail

By Michael Evans
Defence Editor

NATO was preparing last night for massive missile strikes on Yugoslavia as part of what could be the largest military operation in Nato's 50-year history.

After the failure of the last-minute talks in Belgrade between President Milosevic and the American envoy Richard Holbrooke, warships and aircraft armed with cruise missiles were given a countdown for the first phase of the airstrikes, and 350 Nato planes were ready for widescale bombing.

Although the Serb Parliament in Belgrade gave the first indication that it might consider an international peace force in Kosovo, the Yugoslav leader's refusal to end the current wave of oppression, appeared to seal the country's fate. Yugoslavia last night declared a state of emergency.

With President Clinton giving the strongest indication that the order for airstrikes had already been given, Yevgeni Primakov, the Russian Foreign Minister, cancelled his planned trip to Washington. Russia remained bitterly opposed to bombing.

Mr Clinton said the US should pray for the pilots who would be facing imminent danger and prepared his country for likely casualties. In an impassioned speech to local government workers, he compared the Serb assault on ethnic Albanians in Kosovo to Nazi atrocities and asked how many lives would have been saved "if people had listened to Churchill and stood up to Hitler earlier".

"Nato is united and prepared to carry out its warning. If President Milosevic is not prepared to make peace, then we are willing to limit his ability to make war on the Kosovars," he said.

Tony Blair also made an ominous statement. "We have no alternative but to act and act we will, unless Milosevic even now chooses the path of peace," he said. The aim of airstrikes would be to stop the Serb forces from their violent oppression in Kosovo, which was driving thousands from their homes. Only military action, he said, could avert a "humanitarian catastrophe".

After his failed talks with Mr Milosevic, Mr Holbrooke said the Yugoslav leader fully understood the potential consequences of his refusal to sign a peace settlement. The situation was "the bleakest since we began this effort almost four years ago", he said. Mr Milosevic had "not wished to discuss either a ceasefire or a Nato-led force in a serious manner".

He predicted, however, that Mr Milosevic had misjudged the effects of his defiance: "History, not today's headlines, will record the full consequences of what happened today."

As Mr Holbrooke left to brief Nato ambassadors in Brussels about the meeting, departing Yugoslav diplomats claimed that any war with Nato could drag Albania into the conflict.

They also predicted future conflict between Serbia and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, which closed its border with Serbia yesterday, as thousands of Albanians attempted to flee south. There are 12,000 Nato troops in Macedonia and there were fears that they could become targets for Serb retaliation.

However, Mr Blair said that if Nato took no action and the oppression of Kosovo were allowed to continue, the Serbs would have no restraints on their actions. "The consequences of that would be absolutely devastating," he said.

His stance won broad support from both Opposition parties, although William Hague sought assurances that no ground troops would be used.

In Rome, the Foreign Minister Lamberto Dini gave Italian senators explicit details of Nato's bombing plans. The first strikes on Serbian and Yugoslav military targets would come from warships, he said.

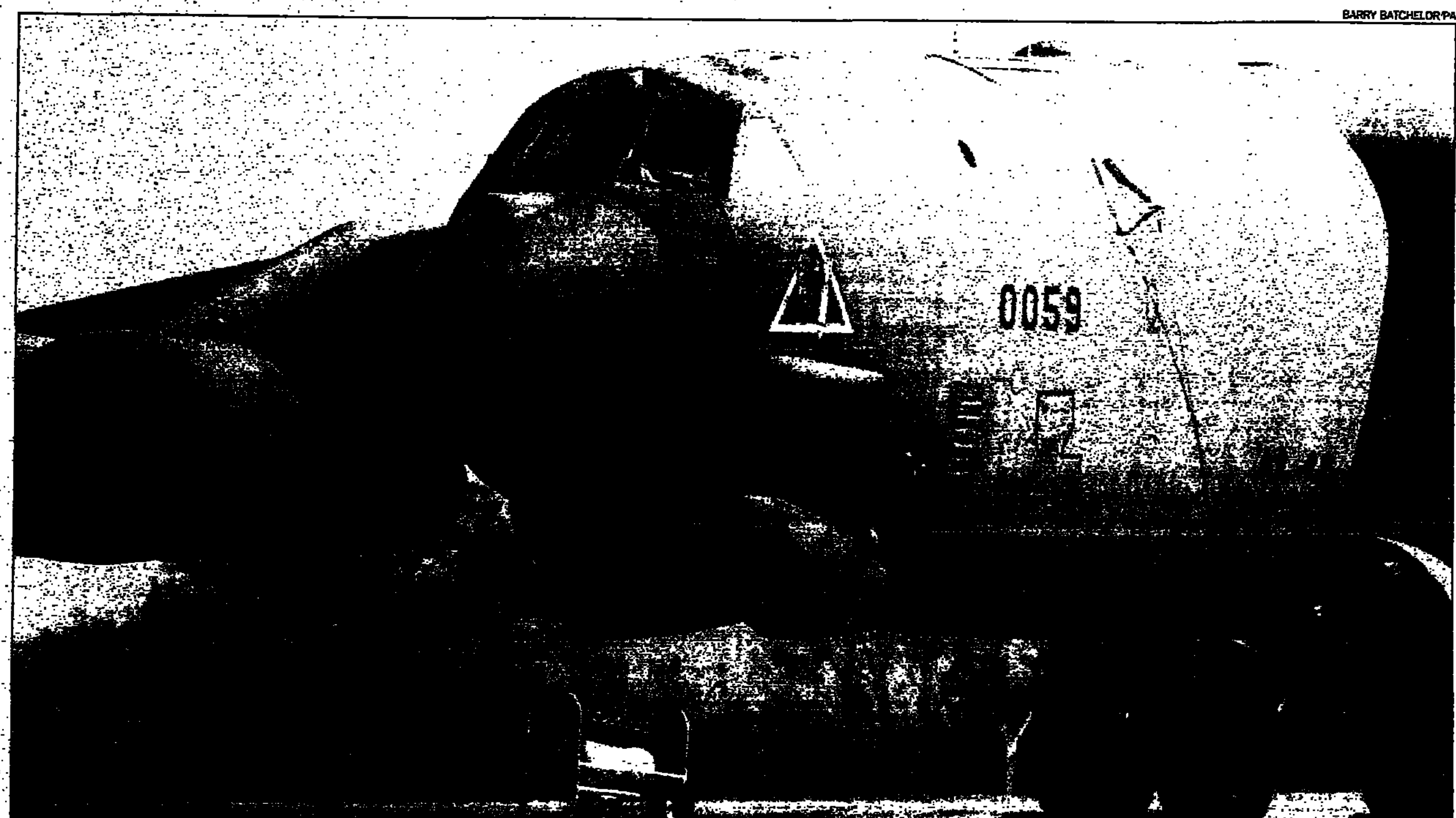
There would then be a pause followed by airstrikes which would "wipe out" the Serb military capability to operate in Kosovo.

Last night Serbs who have been living under the almost constant threat of airstrikes for the past six months, were at last succumbing to a bout of panic shopping, with most stores reporting shortages of staples and canned products.

□ *Additional reporting by Ben Macintyre, Tom Walker, Roland Watson and Ian Brodie*

Drugs money link, page 4
Serb offensive, page 5
MPs divide, page 6
Simon Jenkins, page 20

BARRY BATCHELOR/PA



A B52 bomber secured behind the wire at RAF Fairford, where it was on standby for action over Kosovo after the collapse of peace talks yesterday

> ‘What happens if bombing does not work? That question summed up the complicated divisions at Westminster: outrage, apprehension, uncertainty’
>
> — *Peter Riddell, page 6*

Belgrade calls up vital ‘Dads Army’

From Tom Walker
in Belgrade

HUNDREDS of thousands of men under 58 — a veritable Serb "Dad's Army" — were ordered to mobilise by President Milosevic of Yugoslavia yesterday, part of his final preparations for a war with Nato.

The move could bolster the regular fighting strength of 114,000 to nearly a million men under arms, more than the country had during its war with Croatia. However, widespread desertion makes it unlikely that figure will be met.

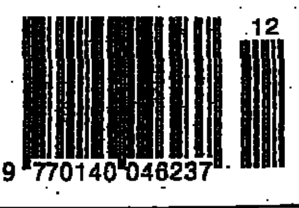
The call up came as the Serb leader tightened his grip over the military by sacking Alexander Dimitrievic, the army's head of intelligence and internal security. He was replaced by an ethnic Hungarian loyal to the Milosevic regime, Lieutenant General Geza Farkas.

Western military observers called the army competent by Balkan standards, but "in a fourth division" compared to Nato. In Belgrade last night the few diplomats remaining packed their bags and admitted the general's dismissal confirmed their worst fears for Yugoslavia's future.



"We are prepared for war"

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Law lords' ruling set to boost Pinochet's hopes

By Frances Gibb and Joanna Bale

GENERAL Pinochet's bid for freedom will receive a major boost today when the highest court in the land rules that he cannot be made to stand trial for crimes of murder and torture allegedly committed before 1988.

At the same time the seven law lords are expected to rule by five to two that he has no immunity from prosecution for crimes after that date.

Their two-part ruling will effectively wipe out all but three of 30 specimen charges submitted by the Spanish Government which is seeking the former dictator's extradition, although it still leaves some crimes of murder and torture to be answered for.

It will also pave the way for the general's lawyers to launch a legal challenge to the decision by Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, last December to authorise extradition proceedings.

Such a decision would mean the former dictator languishing for at least several more months in his rented mansion in Wentworth, Surrey, where he is under house arrest, as his lawyers seek to block extradition proceedings on the strength of the new ruling.

But yesterday his supporters were taking steps in anticipation of an even more optimistic outcome: the general's airforce jet is due to land today at RAF Brize Norton, Oxfordshire, just hours before the 200-page judgment is delivered at 2pm.

The crew would have plenty of time to refuel and restock with fresh food in the event — thought unlikely — that a decision went completely in the general's favour and he is held to be immune from extradition proceedings.

In that event, lawyers would have to go through the lengthy reasons given by each of the law lords — and then return to Bow Street magistrates' court to have bail conditions lifted.

But the law lords' ruling is not expected to remove the threat of extradition altogether.

Rather it is likely to pave the way for fresh legal actions, with General Pinochet's lawyers launching an immediate judicial review of the decision by the Home Secretary to give

Continued on page 2

Family's £3m fraud plot

A family of nine faked car crashes and disability in a plot to claim £3 million in damages and benefits. They gathered about £500,000 before an insurance company became suspicious.... Page 3

£1,000 fine for bus lane abuse

Motorists who block bus lanes will be fined up to £1,000 in a campaign to improve services. Cameras will be installed on buses and at roadsides to record offending drivers.......Page 9

Beloff dies

Lord Beloff, the professor of government who became a leading light of the Thatcherite New Right, has died aged 85.......Page 23
Leading article.......Page 21

IRA killers to go free as Straw loses in court

By Martin Fletcher, Chief Ireland Correspondent

JACK STRAW'S attempt to block the release of four IRA terrorists backfired last night.

Thomas Quigley, Paul Kavanagh and Gerard McDonnell, who had all been jailed for their parts in bombing campaigns in England, were expected to walk free late last night after a judge rejected Mr Straw's efforts to stop their release.

Two dozen Sinn Fein protesters had gathered outside Belfast's High Court as the Home Office began its efforts to overturn Monday's decision by the independent Sentence Review Commission that the three should be released yesterday, and Patrick Magee, the Brighton bomber, in June."

Mr Justice Paul Girvan rejected the commissioners' plea for more time to prepare their case, but ruled that the Home Office lawyers had until midnight to persuade him, and if necessary an appeals court, that the Commissioners were wrong. If they failed the trio would immediately be freed — and in the end, the judge threw out Mr Straw's case.

Gerry Adams had earlier denounced the Home Secretary's intervention as a "vindictive and petty and stupid", saying it would cause deep anger. The Irish Government also expressed surprise and demanded clarification from London.

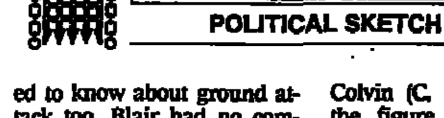
Urgent efforts to break the deadlock over IRA disarmament before next week's deadline made no headway at all, and a small bomb planted by a loyalist splinter group in Castlewellan, Co Down, added to the deepening pessimism.

David Trimble met Mr Adams but said he no longer saw any sign of the flexibility the Sinn Fein president promised in Washington last week. "We heard yet again a simple reiteration of their position." Decommissioning was "not something they can't do but something the Republican movement won't do".

Martin McGuinness, Sinn Fein's chief negotiator, declared: "It' s impossible to get the IRA to do anything in relation to a gesture, timetabling or sheduling against a background of the messing around we have seen over the course of the last 10 months."

Leading article, page 21

Blair's trumpet call echoes with an uncertain sound



As the Good Book says, "if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to battle?" Yesterday's parliamentary fanfare for a Nato attack on Serbia struck a ragged note.

That had not been the Prime Minister's hope. Tony's trumpet was certain. His statement was clear and bold, read almost lipsmackingly slowly.

But from all around came ... silence. A couple of feeble early cheers petered out. Even at his peroration ("I hope the House will join me ...") the cheers never reached more than 4 on the Richter Hear-Hear scale. Tories sat on their hands. What could this mean? Grim sobriety? "Not an occasion for jingoism", etc? Some backbenchers were, it is true, gravely resolute.

But others simply doubted. The unsettled mood emerged as MPs rose to question Blair. The Tory leader led the confusion, for it was hard to know quite what William Hague meant. After a tedious raking-over the past, he seemed to mention — almost as an aside — that the Government would not have Tory support for a ground attack. Surprised whispers rustled across both sides.

Liberal Democrats are now the War Party. A portentous Menzies Campbell called this "a bad business which could turn out to be a bloody one" and seemed rather in favour of it. He thought ground troops might be necessary. Blair had no comment on that.

Labour's Donald Anderson (chairman of the Foreign Affairs Select Committee) wanted to know about ground attack too. Blair had no comment beyond remarking that the difficulty was that "up to 100,000" might be needed.

Alex Salmond, leader of the Scottish National Party, tried again. Still no comment — but Blair now thought it "possible" that "more than 100,000" might be needed. Michael Colvin (C, Romsey) thought the figure twice that. The Prime Minister now agreed "it would be more than 100,000".

Unsettling to watch a Prime Minister virtually declaring war, his estimates of troop numbers rising according to the last person he has spoken to, flanked on one side by Robin Cook wearing a frankly loopy expression, on the other a scowling John Prescott yelling: "What would you do? Just sit and watch the murders on telly?" Now Blair was parrying questions about troops with an insistence that bombing alone would do the trick.

Some Labour MPs backed him. Walsall seems solid for war: David Winnick (Walsall N), a sort of socialist Empire Loyalist, squeaked aggression; Bruce George (Walsall S) wanted guarantees for Macedonia, too. Others too — a majority — were for bombing.

But by no means all. Tony Benn and Tam Dalyell's doubts came as no surprise; Kevin McNamara and Alice Mahon were less expected deserters from the on-message battalion. Mrs Mahon's voice trembled — though whether in fear of the Serbs or the whips was unclear.

Almost every Tory wanted the answer to McNamara's "what if bombing fails?" They thought Milosevic (who, like Hitler, has now lost his "Mr" at Westminster) could only be tamed by ground attack, which most opposed. The rage of Sir Peter Tapsell (Louth, Horncastle) was magnificent. If this was Sir Peter's precautionary word, what will his I Told You So be like?

Soon after Blair had spoken, his Press Secretary, Alastair Campbell, left our gallery to give a briefing. Virtually the entire press corps rushed out, Gadarene in their pursuit. Forsaking Parliament they went (as ever) whither they thought the power had gone. They could just be wrong.

Brown faces inquiry over 'fiddled' figures

Roland Watson and **Alasdair Murray** on claims of a misleading Budget

THE Treasury select committee is to investigate claims that Gordon Brown misled voters about the impact of the Budget by ignoring the abolition of mortgage interest tax relief in his overall figures.

The cross-party committee asked Mr Brown to reply in writing after he was accused of evading the issue during a heated appearance before the group of MPs yesterday.

The Chancellor rejected charges that he had "fiddled" the Budget figures to allow him to trumpet a tax-raising package as one that saved money for households.

But opposition parties seized on independent figures that suggest the Budget will raise taxes by £100 million over three years rather than cut it by £4.5 billion, as repeatedly asserted by both the Prime Minister and the Chancellor. The Tories are likely to return to the issue at question time today when John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, will be standing in for Mr Blair, who is at the Berlin EU summit.

At the heart of the argument is a complex dispute over the accountancy treatment of two of Mr Brown's major Budget reforms in recent years, the abolition of Mortgage Interest Rate Relief (Miras) and the introduction of the Working Families Tax Credit (WFTC).

Mr Brown's assertion that the Budget will reduce net taxes by £4.5 million only stands up if the WFTC is treated as a reduction in tax. The Office for National Statistics has ruled that it should instead be treated as £1.5 billion worth of higher government social spending because it is effectively replacing the old Family Credit. Mr Brown, though, has ignored the office.

He is also claiming that the abolition of Miras should be treated as a reduction in public spending rather than a £2.75 billion tax increase. Although this accountancy treatement is in line with European standards, it goes against Mr Brown's practice in Opposition of including the previous government's limiting of Miras in his lists of "22 Tory tax rises".

The opposition leapt on the accounting details, turning Mr Brown's taunting of the previous Tory government back on him. Both the Tories and Liberal Democrats said that voters would never be able to trust the Chancellor on tax again, a line borrowed directly from Mr Brown when he was Shadow Chancellor.

Malcolm Bruce, the Liberal Democrat spokesman, said "To try to pretend today that further cuts in mortgage tax relief are not tax rises is beyond belief."

Mr Bruce said that yesterday's revelations were "inconsistent, dishonest and cynical". "This latest abuse of statistics is a spin too far. It shows just how far this government is prepared to go to mislead people about taxation," he said.

Francis Maude, the Shadow Chancellor, accused both Mr Brown and Mr Blair of having lied about the effect of the Budget, adding that the Chancellor had "added insult to injury" by ducking questions from the committee.

Mr Maude said: "Gordon Brown's contempt for Parliament, not to mention taxpayers, knows no bounds. Even faced with unequivocal proof that taxes are rising, he swore that black was white."

Mr Brown came under fire at yesterday's select committee from David Ruffley, the Tory MP for Bury St Edmunds and a former adviser to Kenneth Clarke, who said the Chancellor's treatment of the issues was "dishonest". Mr Ruffley used figures from the House of Commons library to argue that the Budget would increase taxes by £100 million over the next three years.

Following the exchanges, the committee asked Mr Brown to respond to its points in writing.

A Treasury spokesman said: "The key point is that we are putting £6 billion into the economy, and £4 billion of that will be reduced tax bills."

POINTS OF CONTENTION

Five other things the Chancellor did not make clear in his Budget speech:

1 Failed to mention the abolition of the 20p tax band.

2 Omitted to mention the end of tax relief for maintenance payments for the children of a broken marriage.

3 Claimed pensioner couples could claim up to £15,000 pa tax free. Accountants, however, believe that this figure is based on such a complex set of allowances and income levels that no one will ever qualify.

4 Suggested pensioners will benefit from the 10p tax reform. But few pensioners actually pay tax and for those who do much of the income comes from savings, which will continue to be taxed at the savings rate of 20p.

5 There is a year's gap between the abolition of the married couple's allowance and the introduction of the children's tax credit, which went unexplained.

RUSSELL BOYCE



Crosses with the names of Chile's 'disappeared' at Parliament Square yesterday

Pinochet

Continued from page 1
the go-ahead to extradition proceedings. They will also renew their fight against extradition when proceedings begin at Bow Street. A date may be set on April 6, the next date on which the general is due to return for a bail hearing.

Critical to the law lords' latest ruling is thought to be argument not aired before the previous panel of five — on the definition of an extradition crime.

The question is whether the crimes alleged were extraditable in law and whether the crimes have to be ones that are extraditable at the time they were committed both in the foreign country and the requesting state as General Pinochet's lawyers argued; or whether, as the Spanish Government and the Crown Prosecution Service argued, it was enough for the crime to be one which is now extraditable in the requesting state.

It could be autumn before formal committal proceedings start at Bow Street.

NEWS IN BRIEF

MPs join campaign for elected chamber

Tony Blair was given a blunt warning yesterday by almost a third of all backbenchers, including 60 Labour MPs, that he should scrap plans to fill a reformed House of Lords with appointees.

In a rare display of crossparty action, 131 MPs backed a Commons motion demanding that the second chamber be elected by the people.

The Government gave a strong hint in its Lords reform White Paper in January that ministers wanted a largely nominated second chamber with a small indirectly elected element. The Royal Commission on Lords reform today publishes a consultation paper of possible options for reform and start taking evidence.

The campaign is being organised by Andrew Tyrie, Tory MP for Chichester, and Mark Fisher, (Lab, Stoke Central, and Charles Kennedy, the Liberal Democrat leadership contender.

Cot deaths link

More than 100 cot deaths a year are caused by passive smoking, according to a campaign. A Gallup survey, for the Foundation for the Study of Infant Deaths, found that only 7 per cent of those questioned linked smoking to cot deaths and only 25 per cent thought it affected children's health. The poll of 2,000 people is the start of a campaign, "Smoking: Give up for Kids".

Labour protest

Election candidates for Labour's ruling national executive could be blocked from running if they complain to the press about the way the ballot is conducted. A code of conduct approved by a majority of the NEC yesterday includes a new complaints procedure under which candidates are expected to refer any protest about the election; not protest in public.

Tessa's sex talk

Tessa Jowell, the Health Minister, blamed many adults' immature attitude towards sex for Britain having the highest rate of teenage pregnancy in Europe. She told the Family Planning Association's annual conference in London: "We confuse them with mixed messages about sex. They could be forgiven for not knowing clearly if sex is supposed to be compulsory or illegal."

Bus-trap girl dies

A girl aged 14 died after her clothes were caught in the closing doors of a bus in Peterborough. Sarah Nelson, a pupil at the city's Stanground Colleges, suffered head injuries as she was dragged along the ground for a few feet. The driver and five passengers were treated for severe shock. Police believe that a cord from the girl's coat may have become trapped.

Disgraced ex-MP accused of smears

By Mark Inglefield
Political Reporter

LABOUR'S attempts to conceal bitter splits in its Newark party were hindered yesterday by fresh criticism of Fiona Jones, the disgraced ex-MP.

As the National Executive Committee suspended the local party after Jones's conviction for electoral fraud, one of her former local rivals called for a further investigation of her affairs.

Gill Dawn, the former leader of Newark and Sherwood District Council, claimed that Jones instigated a smear campaign against her to detract from her own troubles. She told *The Times* yesterday that the regional party needed "shutting down and then fumigating" because of its failure to investigate Jones. "There should be a thorough investigation to look at why the complaints against Fiona Jones were ignored," she said.

Jones, 42, was unavailable for comment. Her appeal against conviction should be heard next month, with the by-election expected on May 6.

Racist police face sack in move to fight prejudice

By Richard Ford, Home Correspondent

POLICE officers found to have used racist language or behaviour face dismissal from the service as part of the Government's drive to implement most of the 70 recommendations in the Stephen Lawrence report.

Jack Straw unveiled a 38-page action plan yesterday and said: "We know we must deliver real practical change. The focus of this plan is mainly about improvements in policing, because that was the focus of the inquiry, but progress on policing must be part of a wider context."

He promised a series of speeches from ministers during the next few months in which they will outline how they plan to build an anti-racist society.

While accepting most of the proposals made by Sir William Macpherson of Cluny's inquiry, Mr Straw made clear that the Government had serious reservations about key proposals and advised caution on several others. But he said that the Race Relations Act will be reformed in the next session of Parliament to bring the police under race discrimination laws. He also promised a feasibility study into setting up a fully independent complaints system to investigate allegations against the police.

But the Home Secretary moved to defuse the most controversial aspects of the report by Sir William. The action plan said that the Government had "serious reservations" about the proposal to make it a criminal offence to utter racist comments in private.

Mr Straw rejected the plan to make schools publish league tables of the number of racist incidents in the classroom.

Sir William, who chaired the inquiry and wrote the report, said: "I'm very happy with the way in which the plan will take forward the recommendations set out in our report. The overall aim is the 'elimination of prejudice and disadvantage and the demonstration of fairness in all of policy'."

IRA prisoners' longest day

Martin Fletcher on the four men whose release was challenged

THOMAS QUIGLEY, Paul Kavanagh and Gerard McDonnell have between them served more than 15,000 days in prison for IRA terrorist offences, but not one as long as yesterday.

The trio should have been free men by mid-morning. Instead they and their families waited well into the evening while Home Office lawyers sought to persuade a Belfast court that they should be detained for another 16 months.

For a fourth prisoner, the Brighton bomber Patrick Magee, the hearing would determine whether he was released in June or in 16 months' time.

Sinn Fein representatives in the court sent out regular updates by mobile telephone, and it was a day of excruciating tension for the prisoners, but then there would be little sympathy for them back in England where they were sent in the 1980s to bomb and murder.

Maigee, 48, is the most notorious. It was he in 1984 who planted the bomb in Room 629 of Brighton's Grand Hotel that 24 days later nearly killed Margaret Thatcher and much of her Cabinet. He was given eight life sentences in 1986 and the judge at his trial labelled him a "man of exceptional cruelty and inhumanity".

Kavanagh and Quigley, both aged 43 and from republican families in West Belfast, were each given five life sentences in 1985 for a bombing campaign in London in 1981 that killed at least three people.

They were responsible for the Chelsea Barracks nail bomb which killed two passers-by, a 59-year-old widow and a male teenager, and for an explosion in an Oxford Street Wimpy bar that killed a bomb disposal officer.

They were also convicted of causing explosions at Debenhams in Oxford Street, and at the home in Wimbledon, South London, of Sir Michael Havers, then the Attorney-General.

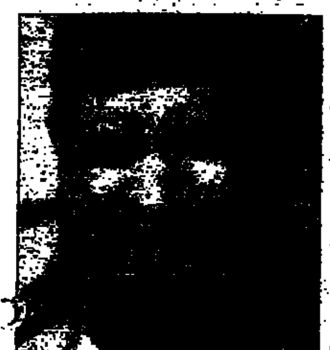
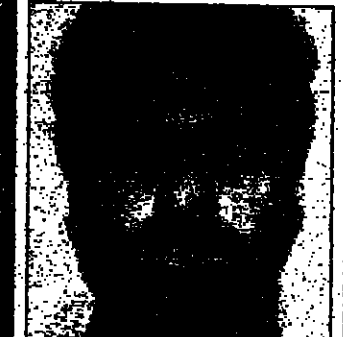
The two refused to stand up as Mr Justice McCowan passed sentence. He told them: "You showed not a spark of compassion for these people. You cannot therefore be surprised if society thinks you are not fit to be at liberty for a very long time to come." He set their tariffs — minimum terms — at 35 years which David Waddington, the then Home Secretary, increased to 50.

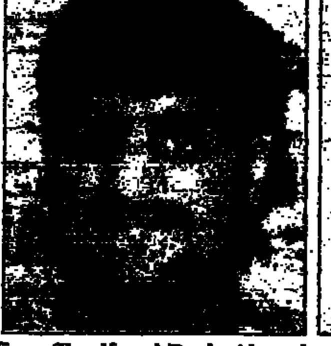
McDonnell, 49, and a cousin of Gerry Adams, was convicted with Magee in 1986 for his part in an IRA plot to bomb a dozen English seaside resorts.

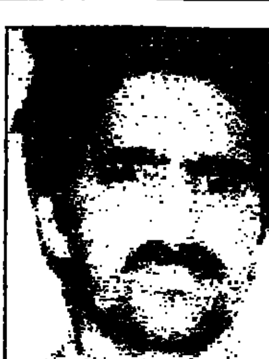
He escaped from the Maze in 1983, was recaptured two years later, and subsequently received £3,108 in compensation for property damaged in the aftermath of the escape.



Fake injuries that cost the state a fortune were revealed when insurers became suspicious



Family of fraudsters: Mohammed Sharif, left, the father who concocted the plan; Zulfiqar Sharif and Razia Ahmed, who made large claims; Arif Sharif, Abid Sharif, Yasmin Sarwar and Abdul Rashid

£3m plot by the family that lived on fraud

By Adrian Lee

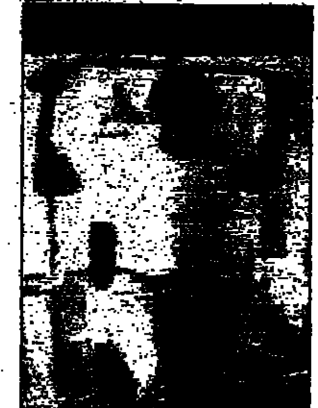
NINE members of the same family faked car crashes and serious disability as part of an elaborate plot to claim £3 million from insurance companies and benefits agencies.

For years, Zulfiqar Sharif and his sister Razia Ahmed were said to be in persistent vegetative states. He claimed £1.75 million compensation for a street attack. She sought £450,000 from an insurance company after a road accident.

Home videos showed them leading normal lives. Ahmed, 24, was filmed walking out of a hospital proudly carrying her new baby. Her brother, 28, who was filmed driving and running down the street.

Preston Crown Court heard that the crimes of their father, Mohammed Sharif, 57, and his relatives, from Preston and Blackburn, had been traced by investigators over almost two decades. They defrauded insurance companies, benefit agencies and the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board. They are conservatively estimated to have netted almost £500,000 before an insurance company stopped them.

According to the prosecution, it was "a vast conspiracy" and almost the entire family were involved.



Zulfiqar Sharif: filmed while working out

As sentencing was adjourned for four weeks, it was calculated that the bill for the trial would reach £2.75 million. Some of the defendants claimed legal aid towards the 18 barristers involved in the case.

The Sharif family owns 13 properties in Lancashire and runs two profitable general stores, the court heard. After police began arrests, £211,000 was transferred from British bank accounts to Pakistan.

After a genuine car accident Mohammed Sharif realised that thousands of pounds could be generated by staging accidents. Thenceforward, family members threw themselves into the paths of cars driven by relatives, the court was told. The only independent witness was often a relative who used a false name.

The fraud began to unravel when the suspicious insurance company employed investigators who watched Ahmed. Police then seized the videos.

The trial was frequently stopped to allow nappies worn by Zulfiqar, which he said he wore for incontinence caused by his injuries, to be changed. He stooped in the dock, his life apparently ruined. But, said prosecutors, the videos showed it was a sham. He had received an interim payment of £47,000 from the compensation board.

The family claimed Zulfiqar had been confused with a relative, an illegal immigrant who had fled to Pakistan.

Also before the court were Mohammed Sharif's other sons, Arif, 27, and Abid, 21, and his other daughters, Parveen Sharif, 30, and Yasmin Sarwar, 24. His sons-in-law Abdul Raschid, 31, and Sian Ahmed, 43, were also found guilty of conspiracy to defraud. Another son-in-law, Mohammed Ramzan, 36, was acquitted.

Mrs Justice Steel told the family that they faced jail. Addressing Mohammed Sharif, who was remanded pending sentence, she said: "I have no hesitation in thinking you will seek to manipulate the sentencing procedure either by illness — real or fake — or attempting to leave the country."

The court heard that Arif claimed to be mentally subnormal, claiming more than £150 week in benefit, but ran a successful retail business, called Arif Superstore.

The family was helped by the apparent willingness of the medical authorities to accept their injuries, the court heard.

Other members of the family, who also received payments, are believed to have fled to Pakistan.

Speaking after the case, one of the police officers involved said: "They are a collection of fakes, prepared to act out any illness, incapacity or accident in their greed for money." It is believed that at least seven road accidents were staged.



Zulfiqar Sharif being helped away from the court by a friend. He claimed he was wheelchair-bound

FAMILY FORTUNES: WHO CLAIMED WHAT

MOHAMMED SHARIF, 57: head of family and its retail business. Arrived in Britain from Pakistan 35 years ago. For at least six years has been claiming disability living allowance (£32.40 a week), income support (£55.43) and housing benefit. Served five-year prison sentence for part in arson linked to £40,000 insurance claim.

ZULFIQAR SHARIF, 28: Mohammed's son, he was claiming disability living allowance (£61.40), income support (£63.30) and housing benefit (£50). Received interim payment of £47,000 from Criminal Injuries Compensation Board after being attacked in street at age of 15. Outstanding claim of more than £1.5 million.

ABID SHARIF, 21: another son, claiming invalid care allowance (£38.60) for looking after elder brother, and housing benefit (£50).

ARIF SHARIF, 27: another son, who was claiming disability allowance (£32.40), housing benefit (£50) and incapacity allowance (£74.05) relating to car crash.

RAZIA AHMED, 28: daughter of Mohammed and a mother of four, was claiming disability allowance (£45.30), incapacity allowance (£83.95) and housing benefit (£50). Car accident insurance claim of £450,000 triggered investigation into family.

PARVEEN SHARIF, 30: another daughter, was claiming disability allowance (£68.85), housing benefit (£50) and incapacity allowance (£128.55) relating to car accident in which she was knocked down by another family member. Received insurance payment believed to be £12,000.

YASMIN SARWAR, 24: another daughter, was receiving housing benefit (£50), disability allowance (£39.90) and incapacity benefit (£117.40) after road accident in which father was driver.

ABDUL RASCHID, 31: son-in-law of Mohammed, was claiming disability allowance (£79.35) after car accident, housing benefit (£50) and income support (£68.30). Made unsuccessful insurance claim.

SIAN AHMED, 43: son-in-law, was receiving incapacity allowance (£74.05) and housing benefit (£50).

Tougher check on benefit cheats

By Alexandra Frean
Social Affairs Correspondent

THE Government is to crack down on cheats who use dead people's national insurance numbers to claim state benefits.

Computer checks will also be introduced to detect people whose national insurance numbers appear both on company payrolls and on benefit claim forms.

Alistair Darling, the Social Security Secretary, unveiled the measures yesterday in a new document, *A New Contract for Welfare — Safeguarding Social Security*, that aims to reduce the estimated £2 billion to £5 billion worth of fraudulent or incorrect benefit claims made each year.

Procedures are to be introduced to check new activity on dormant national insurance accounts. There is also to be stricter security surrounding the issuing of new national insurance numbers and the weeding out of old numbers. Officials will demand proof of identity for all claimants and will accept only originals of documents such as birth certificates. The changes follow research showing that more than one in five national insurance numbers in use may be fake.

Sawoniuk in walkout threat over SS claim

By Tim Jones

SHAKING with rage, the pensioner accused of war crimes threatened to storm out of the witness box yesterday as he was questioned about his alleged membership of the Waffen SS.

Anthony Sawoniuk told Sir John Nutting, QC, for the prosecution: "It is nonsense. Don't ask me about the German army or I am going."

His outburst came as Sir John questioned him over a German army document that purported to show he had been a member of the Waffen Border SS in 1944. "I hate the Germans and I hate the Russians. They are the people who destroyed the Polish population," Mr Sawoniuk said.

Earlier, asked whether ten days after the September 1942 massacre of 2,900 Jews in Domachevo, Belarus, he had killed children, he said: "Absolute lies. I never killed a child in my life."

Mr Sawoniuk, 78, of Bermondsey, southeast London, denies two charges of murder. The trial, at the Old Bailey, continues.

Woman smoked joint as river girls drowned

By Russell Jenkins

A WOMAN was sharing a cannabis joint with two boys on a dangerous riverbank when two eight-year-old girls drowned in her care.

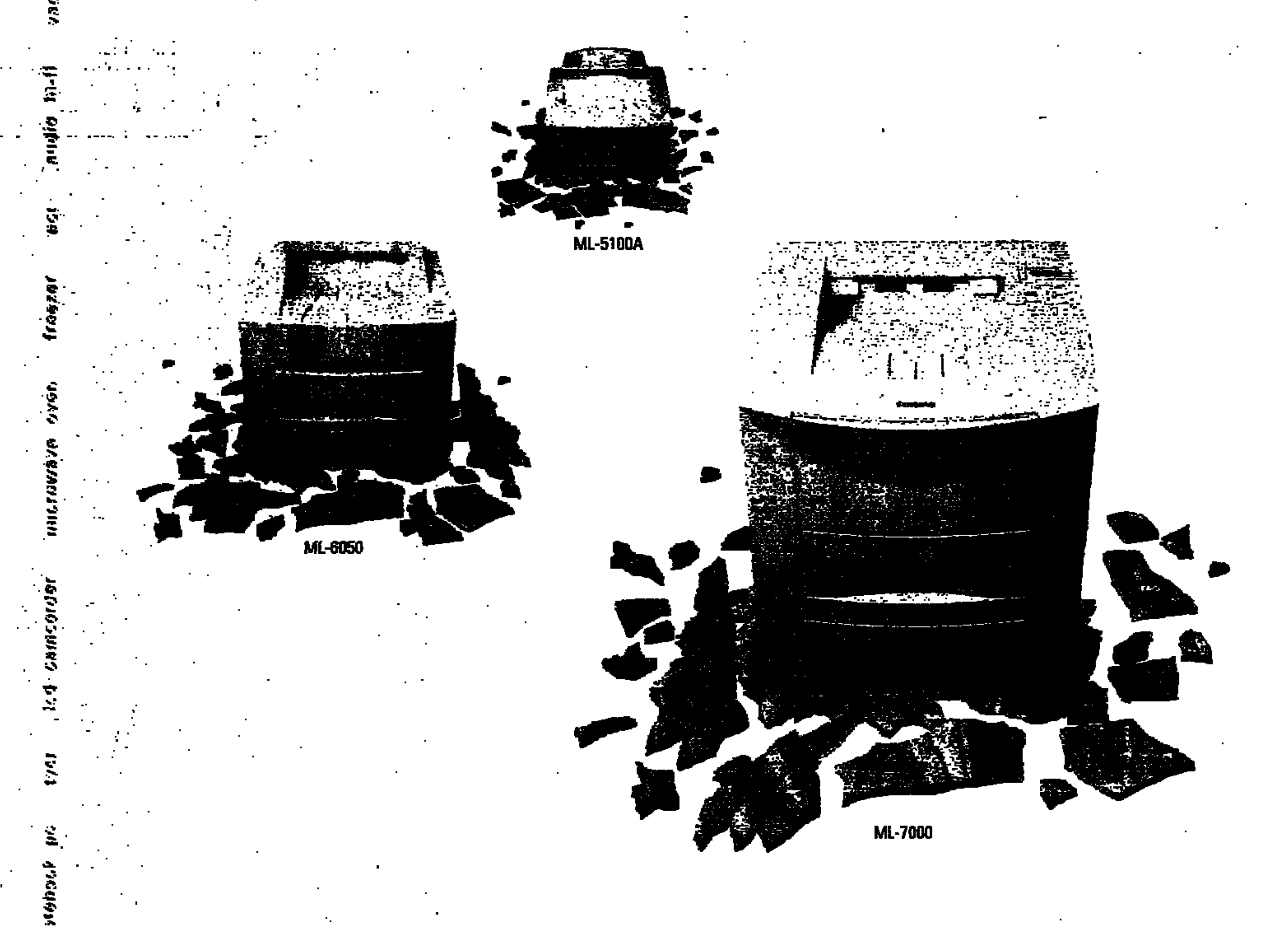
The girls, Charlea Fox and Jasmine Neville, were nonswimmers but were heard to shout, "Let's play Baywatch" before they disappeared in the River Wharfe at Arthington, near Otley, West Yorkshire.

Leeds Crown Court was told yesterday that Wendy Dodd, 41, was high on drink and drugs, and unaware of the children's distress as she sunbathed in bra and cut-off shorts with two boys from a nearby travellers' camp. Vital minutes were lost because she told police that the girls had wandered off. Police called a helicopter and tracker dogs instead of frogmen.

Mrs Dodd, formerly of Burley, Leeds, had denied manslaughter, and was allowed to plead guilty to lesser charges of wilful neglect amounting to cruelty. Sentencing was adjourned for medical and pyschiatric reports.

James Stewart, QC, for the prosecution, said that a riverbank barbecue was planned by David and Maxine Fox, Charlea's parents, to celebrate her eighth birthday. When the couple returned to Leeds, Mrs Dodd was left in charge.

A woman heard one child say: "Let's play Baywatch and you rescue me." At the same time, two "gypsy boys", aged about 15 and 12, were talking to Mrs Dodd from the other side off the river. She invited them for a "spliff".



Wendy Dodd: left in charge of the children

Drugs money linked to the Kosovo rebels

FROM ROGER BOYES AND ESKE WRIGHT IN BONN

THE Kosovo Liberation Army, which has won the support of the West for its guerrilla struggle against the heavy armour of the Serbs, is a Marxist-led force funded by dubious sources, including drug money.

That is the judgment of senior police officers across Europe. An investigation by *The Times* has established that police forces in three West European countries, together with Europol, are separately investigating growing evidence that drug money is funding the KLA's leap from obscurity to power.

The financing of the Kosovo guerrilla war poses critical questions and it sorely tests claims to an "ethical" foreign policy. Should the West back a guerrilla army that appears to be partly financed by organised crime? Could the KLA's need for funds be fuelling the heroin trade across Europe?

The KLA has become an essential component of the Kosovo peace agreement; without it, there would be no equal negotiating partner for the Belgrade Government. In military terms, it is in no sense equal to the Serb forces. But it

THE KLA

has grown from a theoretical notion to an often successful, very mobile and very visible guerrilla grouping in a remarkably short time.

Much of the money funding the KLA is believed to come from legitimate sources — raised by the People's Movement of Kosovo (LPK), which is the political wing of the resistance movement.

There are about 500,000

> ‘Drug routes are used for weapons’

Kosovan Albanians in Western Europe who send money back home because it funds healthcare for their cousins. However, some of this cash is believed to be siphoned off for the military.

As well as diverting charitable donations from exiled Kosovans, some of the KLA money is thought to come from drug dealing.

Sweden is investigating suspicions of a KLA drug connection. "We have intelligence leading us to believe that there could be a connection between drug money and the Kosovo Liberation Army," said Walter Kege, head of the drug enforcement unit in the Swedish police intelligence service.

Supporting intelligence has come from other states. "We have yet to find direct evidence, but our experience tells us that the channels for trading hard drugs are also used for weapons," said one Swiss police commander.

An official in the Bavarian Interior Ministry also told *The Times* of a recent fundraising meeting involving some 200 Kosovans in southern Germany. "At the end of the session they raised DM100,000 [about £40,000]."

This represents a huge sum for ordinary Kosovans and fuels speculation that apparently legitimate fundraising activities are used to launder dirty money.

One Western intelligence report quoted by *Berliner Zeitung* says that DM900 million has reached Kosovo since the guerrillas began operations and half the sum is said to be illegal drug money.

In particular, European countries are investigating the Albanian connection: whether Kosovan Albanians living primarily in Germany and Switzerland are creaming off the profits from inner-city heroin dealing and sending the cash to the KLA.

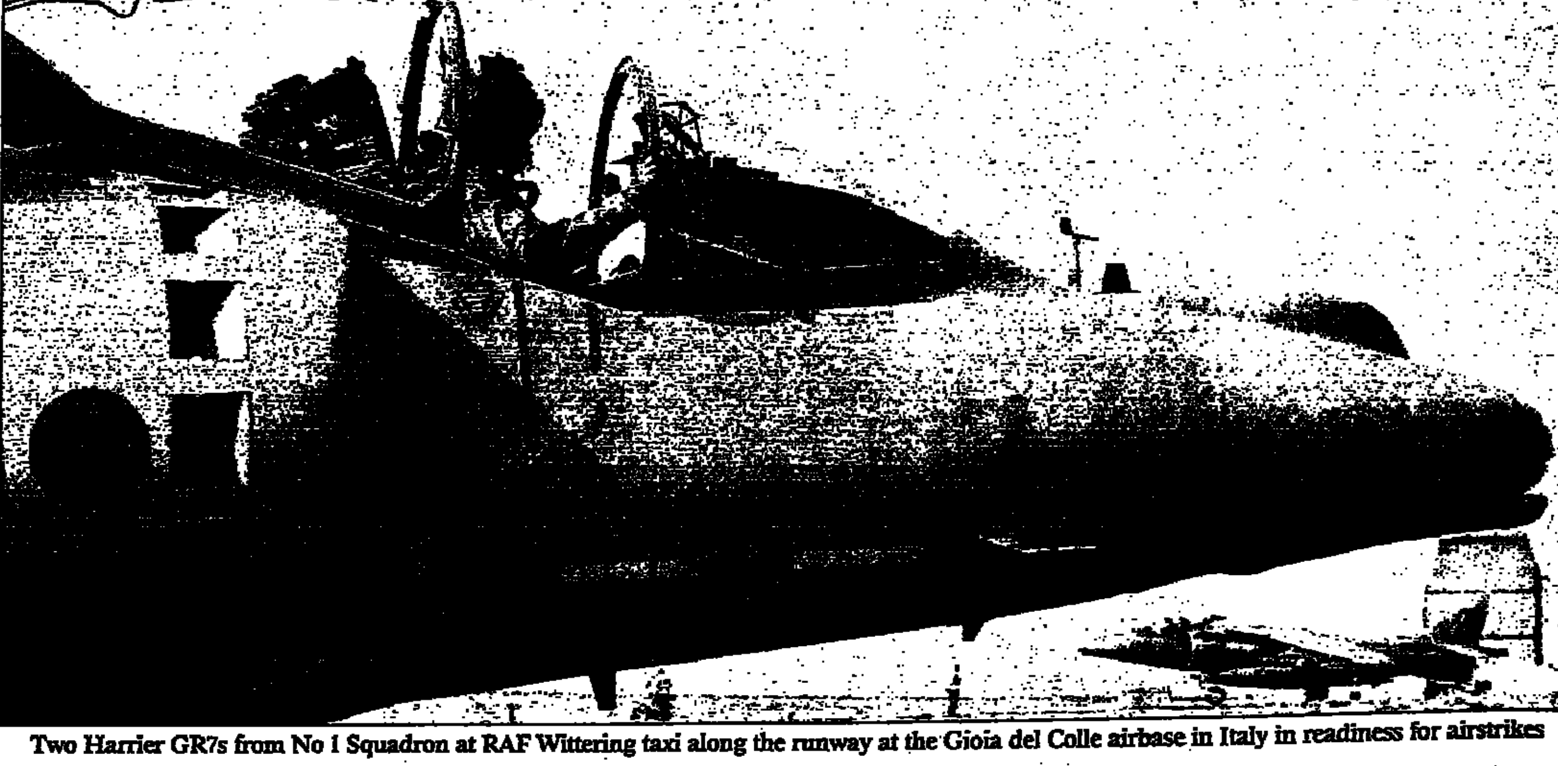
Albania — which plays a key role in channelling money to the Kosovans — is at the hub of Europe's drug trade. An intelligence report prepared by Germany's Federal Criminal Agency concluded: "Ethnic Albanians are now the most prominent group in the distribution of heroin in Western consumer countries."

Europol, the European police authority based in The Hague, is preparing a report for European interior and justice ministers on a connection between the KLA and Albanian drug gangs.

Czech police recently tracked down a Kosovo Albanian drug dealer named Doboshi who had escaped from a Norwegian prison where he was serving 12 years for heroin trading. A raid on Doboshi's apartment turned up documents linking him with arms purchases for the KLA.

Police sources in Germany have made plain their suspicions: the sudden ascendancy of Kosovan Albanians in the heroin trade in Switzerland, Germany and Scandinavia coincides with the sudden growth of the Kosovo Liberation Army from a ragamuffin peasants' army two years ago to a 30,000-strong force equipped with grenade launchers, anti-tank weapons and AK47s.

Simon Jenkins, page 20


Two Harrier GR7s from No 1 Squadron at RAF Wittering taxi along the runway at the Gioia del Colle airbase in Italy in readiness for airstrikes

Versatile Harriers ready to go in after cruise missile strike

Richard Owen reports on the high state of readiness at Gioia del Colle

WITH a throaty roar which shook the ground for miles around, RAF Harriers streaked into rainswept skies above southern Italy yesterday as Britain's contingent of eight warplanes moved into a state of high alert for action against targets in Serbia and Kosovo.

Wing Commander Graham Wright, who commands the RAF detachment on the Italian Nato base at Gioia del Colle, near Bari, said the Nato commanders were "aware of the threat from the Serbian air defences", which experts describe as sophisticated.

As Nato moves to the final countdown, the fear is that Serb air defences could bring down a Harrier, which has a crew of one and is subsonic, unlike some other ground-attack jets. But Wing Commander Wright insisted that the Harrier was a flexible, manoeuvrable aircraft and had "many strengths", including its night-time capability and laser-guided bombs which could "hit targets with precision".

He said the Harriers were "part of a coalition" of 400 allied aircraft "with different capabilities ... We are part of a package in which different elements will protect each other." The mix of aircaft would "allow us to mount the most efffective and coherent air campaign we can", while precision guided systems "will enable us to hit the targets we want to hit and avoid collateral damage".

Reports say the Harriers, which carry Sidewinder missiles for self-defence, would go into action after an initial wave of US-launched Tomahawk missiles aimed at Serb air defence installations. The Harrier GR7s, capable of vertical take-offs and landings, have infra-red equipment, with the pilot wearing night-vision goggles. They have been based at Gioa del Colle since last October, when Nato bombing of Serbia was averted at the eleventh-hour by a truce engineered by Richard Holbrooke, the US envoy.

With the ceasefire long in tatters, monitors from the Organ-

THE RAF

isation of Security and Co-operation in Europe withdrawn from Kosovo, and the talks between Mr Holbrooke and President Milosevic apparently at an end, the pilots know that "this time it might be for real".

The Harriers operate alongside Italian Tornados and F3 jets at the base, and have spent the past six months patrolling over Bosnia in support of troops enforcing the peace deal there. "The terrain is much the same as Kosovo, and so are the operational problems, such as mid-air refuelling," Wing Commander Wright said. "This puts us in a high state of readiness in preparation for any operations in Kosovo. We are ready to go."

The Harrier crews, drawn from No. 1 (Fighter) Squadron at Wittering, are backed up by a Canberra from RAF Marham providing high-definition reconnaissance photographs.

Gioia del Colle is set in a bleak area of farmland almost directly opposite Kosovo, across the Adriatic. An RAF support staff of 250 provides the aircrews with communications and maintenance as well as with home comforts such as sponge pudding and custard. There are few facilities, though a gym is promised.

With the help of British Army engineers, the RAF detachment has built a mini-city of Portakabin sheds and hangars at Gioia del Colle, and white, plastic-covered "sun shelters" for the Harriers.

"When we were here before with a fleet of Jaguars during the Bosnia crisis, we had hardened shelters," Wg Cdr Wright, 40, said. When "we came back last year because of Kosovo, our Italian hosts had taken over facilities we had used before. But they have given us space on the edge of the base, and have even asked us how to build the white sun shelters."

Yesterday Massimo D'Alema, the Italian Prime Minister, defied criticism from Communist members of his Centre-Left coalition and said Nato bases on Italian soil were "fully available" for Nato strikes. "Nato bases are not foreign, they are part of an alliance in which Italy is a partner," he said, adding: "Just a few kilometres from our borders, the Serbs are shooting at houses inhabited by civilians. This is totally unacceptable."

RUSSIA

Primakov postpones talks in US

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN WASHINGTON

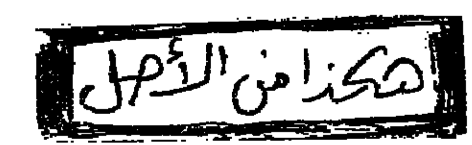
RUSSIA'S Prime Minister, Yevgeni Primakov, abruptly cancelled his US visit in mid-air because of the threatened airstrikes against Serb targets, the US Vice-President, Al Gore, announced yesterday.

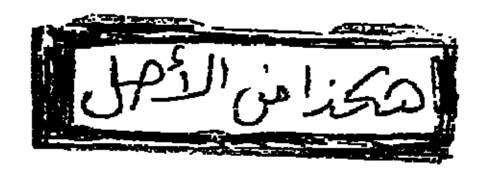
Mr Gore added that he had discussed America's failure to win a Kosovo peace deal with Mr Primakov, who was flying to Washington. The Russian — who had earlier protested at possible Nato airstrikes — decided to return to Moscow. "We agreed that we would postpone this week's meeting," Mr Gore said.

In an explicit warning that Russia will not stand idle in the event of military action, Igor Ivanov, the Foreign Minister, had said earlier that Moscow might retaliate by pressing for an end to the UN embargo against Yugoslavia.

During his Irish stopover on his way to Washington, Mr Primakov had accused the West of double standards.


Primakov: turned back for Moscow in mid-air





Hit-and-run attacks slow Serb advance

Anthony Loyd in Rezala sees the KLA change of tactics pay off

IN THE Drenica valleys there was no talk of peace, only the language of the gun. But the Serb offensive, in its fourth day, appeared to be faltering as the Kosovo Liberation Army fights on.

Separatist guerrillas in Poljance continued to tie down Serb forces, denying them freedom of movement along the Srbica to Komorane road, and waylaying troops and armour that could otherwise press south. The sprawling village, a couple of miles east of Srbica, appeared little more than a smouldering scar on the slopes. But the KLA, facing tanks and heavy artillery with Kalashnikovs, rockets and mines, was holding out after nearly 100 hours of assault.

"There is a big difference between this offensive and the previous one last year," said Gani Koci, a senior officer in the KLA's Drenica operational zone. "Then the Serbs managed to take control over the whole of Drenica in three days while now, in similar time, they have only advanced into several villages of the region."

On the ridgeline here, overlooking the battlefield, KLA Tiger troops — special forces in black uniforms — were singing as they drove into action: hardly the attitude of defeated fighters.

"There is no doubt that the Serbs can advance into KLA-controlled areas," Mr Koci said. "But they cannot stay there for a long time as they will be attacked, just as they are being attacked now, from all sides. We are changing our tactics. Operating in smaller groups we shall hit every place that the enemy forces pass through."

He spoke during a brief lull in the fighting. The peace was broken abruptly just after ten o'clock as the Serbs resumed the offensive. Katyusha multi-barrel rocket launchers hit the Rezala ridgeline while tanks and mortars fired into Poljance.

In Srbica itself, purged of Albanians on Saturday in an act that bore all the hallmarks of Bosnian-style "ethnic cleansing", the Yugoslav Army and police remained tense. Although they have burnt the Albanians out of villages along both the northern and southern approach roads, an army resupply convoy was ambushed on its way there from Mitrovica the previous day by a group of KLA who emerged suddenly from what the Serbs presumed was a secure area.

Allegations are mounting of a massacre of a group of Albanian men in the town, shot down as they were driven from their homes. No bodies have been seen but a number of families have reported that their missing menfolk were last seen in the hands of Serbian special forces.

On Monday night the father of one of the missing men, Milazim Rexha, knowing that his 26-year-old son had been killed on a wooded slope as he tried to eseape Srbica, asked Gani Gecaj, a local fighter from neighbouring Lausa, if he could infiltrate the Serb lines and recover the body.

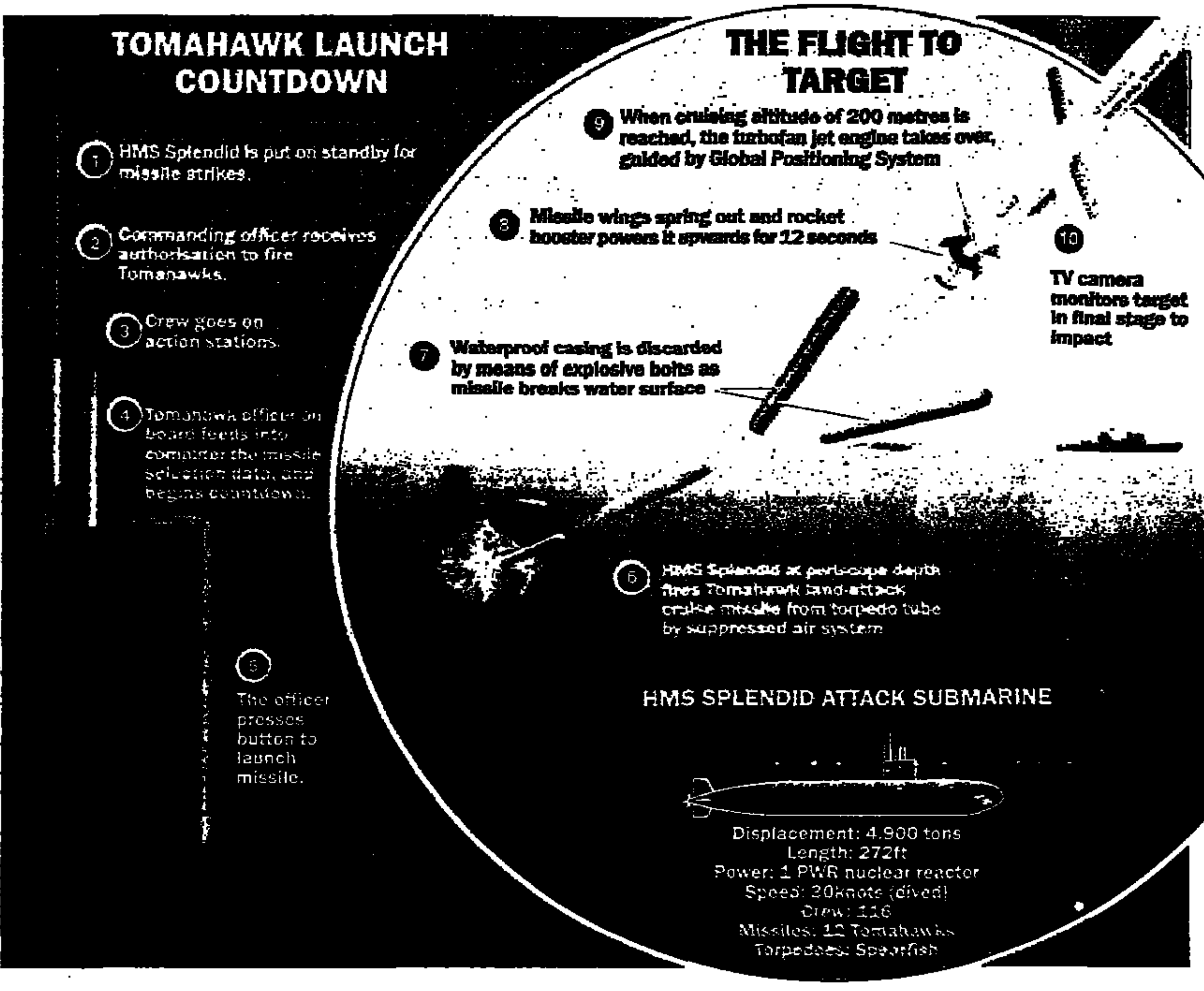
Mr Gecaj, who has a reputation for bravery, agreed. Crawling through the darkness accompanied by four others, he reached the body at the edge of the town and brought it back for burial.

"The police arrived in our house at about 9am on Saturday," Milazims's brother explained. "They told us to get out and go to Albania. I ran out of the house with my three brothers but another group of police about fifty metres away began shooting at us. Milazim was killed and we had to leave him. I don't know what hit him but it took his head off.

"Two days after our delegation signed for peace and I lose my brother. The Serbs understand only force. If Nato does not come soon we must always live our lives in danger."



A woman stocks up with bread in Pristina as political moves to avert Nato airstrikes faltered yesterday



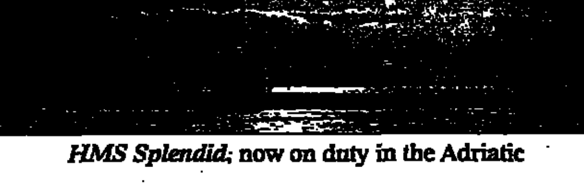
Sub will strike via computer

By Michael Evans
DEFENCE EDITOR

HMS Splendid, the Royal Navy submarine on standby to fire her Tomahawk cruise missiles for the first time in anger, will operate according to a strict Nato plan which lays down precisely the launching order, timing and target selection for each weapon system.

The nuclear-powered submarine was originally designed for underwater warfare, but since she was equipped with up to a dozen Tomahawk cruise missiles and became operational with her new weapons at the end of last year, she has been available to contribute to air battles.

So, in contrast to its traditional operating philosophy — "run silent, run deep" — the submarine will operate close to the surface. It will fire its missiles from periscope depth, so that the boat can communicate at short notice with friendly surface ships and submarines deployed to the Adriatic for airstrikes on Yugoslavia.



HMS Splendid; now on duty in the Adriatic

This will help to avoid missiles knocking each other out en route to a target. "Deconfliction" is a crucial aspect of all air campaigns. After the commanding officer, Commander Richard Barker, the key man on board the *Splendid* is the "Tomahawk officer, a lieutenant who is supported by a chief petty officer.

Once the "requirement to fire" has been authorised and the commanding officer has been told which mission to select, the rest is left to the Tomahawk officer. Having been given the order to fire, he will set in motion the procedures that lead to pressing the button and the launch of the missile.

With the crew on action stations, the mission computer is ordered to select a particular missile, with its individually pre-programmed target fed into its guidance system, and the countdown begins. Once launched, there is no system of aborting the missile.

Before *HMS Splendid* was diverted from an exercise in the Mediterranean to the Adriatic, she already had on board "target libraries" — a computerised package of missions consisting of pre-loaded information on military targets and missile flight routes in countries judged to be troublespots.

Britain has a cruise missile support cell at Northwood, northwest of London. If a Royal Navy Tomahawk-armed submarine requires a new mission for its computer, the information is sent by radio data link from Northwood.

Although the Royal Navy carries out its own mission planning, target selection is a matter for the highest military authorities, once political approval has been given. Precise co-ordinates for the targets are worked out with the help of the American Global Positioning System, an integrated network of 24 satellites that guarantees accuracy to a few yards.

One defence source said: "The Tomahawk is a pilot-free way of dropping a 1,000lb bomb on a target extremely accurately."

US plan involves three key stages

From Ben Macintyre
in Washington

NATO commanders have drawn up a three-stage plan aimed at destroying Serbia's capacity to wage war in Kosovo that could go into operation "within hours" if President Milosevic of Yugoslavia maintains his defiance.

The first phase would involve an intense bombardment of the extensive Serb missile and artillery network, using satellite-guided Tomahawk cruise missiles bearing 1,000lb warheads launched from four US Navy warships, two US submarines and the British submarine *HMS Splendid*. The B52 bombers based in Britain, armed with a 2,000lb version of the cruise

NATO

missile, are also available for the first onslaught. Nato jets might be employed to slow the advance of Serb units operating inside Kosovo.

The plan then calls for a "breathing space", providing Mr Milosevic with an opportunity to halt the Yugoslav Army offensive and accept the accord giving limited autonomy to Kosovo. If he declines to budge, the second stage of the attack would then be launched: a larger, sustained assault on 300 targets making up the Serb military infrastructure in and around Kosovo.

The third stage of the plan follows the assumed success of the first two: with Mr Milosevic ready to accept the settlement and his military machine no longer capable of retaliation or oppression, it calls for the introduction of 28,000 Nato peacekeeping troops.



LINKS

http://www.serbia-info.com/ — Serbian Ministry of Information
http://www.iwpr.net/ — Institute for War and Peace Reporting
http://www.hrw.org/reports98/kosovo/ — Human Rights Watch in Kosovo
http://www.osce.org.e.overview.htm — OSCE website for latest on the Kosovo crisis
http://www.nato.int/ — Nato website

MPs divide into opposing camps

James Landale hears arguments for and against military action after Blair's Commons statement

MPs from all parties yesterday gave a mixed reception to Tony Blair's Commons statement on the threat of Nato airstrikes in Kosovo.

William Hague, the Tory leader, backed the need for military action from the air but opposed deployment of troops on the ground. He also said the Government should have acted earlier. "Given the repeated threats and ultimatums issued over many months, we support the Government taking the action described," he said. "And while we support the use of ground troops to implement a diplomatic settlement, we will not support the use of ground troops to fight for a settlement." Mr Hague told Mr Blair: "While we would welcome an explicit demonstration of Nato credibility . . . we regret that some decisive action did not take place earlier."

Menzies Campbell, the Liberal Democrats' foreign affairs spokesman, said: "This is a bad business which could turn out to be a bloody one as well. Nobody should underestimate the risk of casualties on both sides."

But airstrikes should be contemplated "because of the deliberate and brutal targeting of civilians by the Serbian forces as they shell, loot and burn villages and make refugees of their inhabitants."

Donald Anderson, Labour chairman of the Foreign Affairs Select Committee, said the Prime Minister was right to issue a final warning to Milosevic. "But he is also right to point out the very high risks involved. Most members of this House accept the need for airstrikes but with extreme reluctance because we cannot surely have confidence that bombs will bring peace. This is indeed very risky."

> ‘Most MPs accept airstrikes but with reluctance because we cannot have confidence that bombs will bring peace’
>
> *Donald Anderson*

Sir Archibald Hamilton, chairman of the Tory backbench 1922 Committee, demanded to know what the Prime Minister planned to do if airstrikes failed.

Bruce George, Labour chairman of the Defence Select Committee, said there was "overwhelming support" for military action among MPs and the public.

Sir Peter Tapsell (Cons, Louth and Horncastle) said airstrikes alone would not achieve Nato's objectives. Airstrikes had failed in Bosnia where a peace was achieved only when ground troops were deployed. "Using weasel words to the British people at this point is very wrong," he said. "What the Government is proposing now is to make war on Serbia and it is a profound political mistake to suppose that Milosevic is not supported by the mass of the Serbian patriotic people, who are one of the great fighting peoples of Europe. The British people should be told now that we are embarking inevitably in ground operations that will result in heavy casualties." Mr Blair angrily insisted that Britain had no alternative but to act. "The consequences of not acting are to plunge that whole region into chaos and consign literally thousands of innocent people to death and brutality."

Tony Blair making the case for military action in his Commons statement yesterday

Clive Soley, chairman of the Parliamentary Labour Party, backed airstrikes. "The British people have learnt more than anyone else that appeasement does not work."

Tom King (C, Bridgwater), the former Tory Defence Secretary, backed military action. "There is in my mind no alternative but to demonstrate very firmly the credibility of Nato," he said. But he added that ground troops would be necessary and gave warning that this would stretch Britain's Armed Forces too far.

Tony Benn (Lab, Chesterfield), the veteran former minister, said the Prime Minister's statement was the gravest since the 1956 Suez crisis. "An ultimatum has been announced amounting to an all-out air war and possibly ground war against a member state in the United Nations which under article 51 has the right to self-defence."

He insisted that Britain and its allies were breaking international law. The bombing, he claimed, was unlikely to be any more successful than it had been in Iraq: "It is bound to cause casualties, worsen the humanitarian crisis and could well widen the Balkan crisis."

Alex Salmond, the Scottish nationalist leader, asked Mr Blair to make clear whether or not the Government planned to use ground troops.

The Prime Minister replied: "We support the use of ground troops in supporting the agreement. But we do not plan to use ground troops in order to fight our way into Kosovo. It would take a huge commitment, possibly over 100,000 ground troops."

David Winnick (Lab, Walsall N) backed airstrikes. "Either we allow the atrocities to continue and the crimes against humanity to continue or we decide to act and act decisively." He said opponents of intervention had been wrong over the Falklands in 1981, over Kuwait in 1991, and in Bosnia in 1995. "So why on earth should we believe they are right now?" he asked.

David Curry (C, Skipton and Ripon) asked: "What happens if the bombing does not bring him [Milosevic] to the negotiating table?"

Julian Brazier (C, Canterbury), said evidence from Hanoi to Grozny was that bombing strengthened rather than weakened the resolve of the victim. He told Mr Blair: "If you are not willing to follow up bombing with ground forces, I put it to you, it would be better not to bomb at all."

Simon Jenkins, page 20

What happens if bombing does not work?

Peter RIDDELL ON POLITICS

The question of what happens if the bombs fail, never fully answered, echoed through the hour of Commons exchanges yesterday on Kosovo. It summed up the complicated cross-currents of views and divisions at Westminster, a mixture of outrage against Serbian actions, apprehension about the risks of bombing and uncertainty about the outcome.

Tony Blair was direct, candid and occasionally passionate in making the case for military action. He was right to do so now, ahead of air attacks, not least because he will be in Berlin at the European summit for the next two days. He argued that "if Kosovo was left to the mercy of Serbian repression, there is not merely a risk but a probability of reigniting unrest in Albania; Macedonia destabilised; almost certain knock-on effects in Bosnia; and further tension between Greece and Turkey".

This won the support of most MPs, though generally with conditions and misgivings. William Hague backed airstrikes and the use of ground troops in support of a diplomatic settlement, but rejected their use to fight for such a settlement. He sought assurances that airstrikes would not be a prelude to a ground war.

Mr Blair was firm that ground forces would be used only when a settlement was in place, and not "to fight our way into Kosovo". Nato action would be solely in the form of airstrikes. He noted that more than 100,000 ground troops would be needed to defeat the Serbs in Kosovo. What he omitted was that the Americans will not agree to commit ground troops to fight in this way. Congress has been deeply divided even on sending troops to a Nato peacekeeping operation.

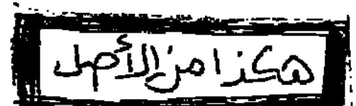
Opinion in the Commons was divided across party lines. On the Labour side, there was support, albeit with warnings about the risks to British forces, from Donald Anderson and Bruce George, chairmen of the Foreign Affairs and Defence Select Committees, and opposition from the Left, notably Tony Benn and Alice Mahon.

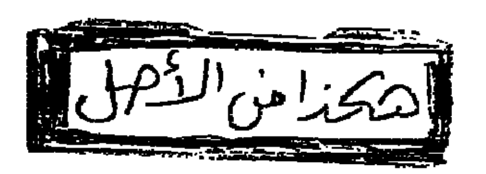
Mr Hague's support was endorsed by establishment figures such as Tom King, Defence Secretary in the Gulf War. There was, however, substantial Tory dissent, expressed by mainstream figures such as Sir Peter Tapsell and Julian Brazier, who questioned what bombing alone would achieve and argued that ground operations would inevitably be involved.

The central issue, put succinctly by David Curry, is what happens if bombing does not bring Milosevic to the negotiating table? Mr Blair did not claim this would necessarily be achieved and replied that airstrikes would have as their "precise minimum objective to prevent, curb and reduce his ability to suppress Kosovan Albanians" by aiming at the Serbs' military capabilities. This failed to convince all.

Similar doubts were heard yesterday in Washington. Senator John McCain, a Republican supporter of airstrikes, said that there is "no plan B if the bombing doesn't work and I'm worried whether the bombing will be sufficient".

Mr Blair obtained the necessary support for launching airstrikes, if only because of the likely further loss of life in Kosovo, and instability "on the doorstep of the European Union", if Nato does not act firmly now. But the backing is conditional and divisions are greater than during the Falklands or Gulf wars because doubters include Tory as well as Labour MPs. Mr Blair should not take parliamentary opinion for granted.





MARTIN BEDDALL



Barbara Cole and Mick Gambrill, who will get married while competing in the London Marathon next month

There goes the bride – for another 24 miles

By Alex O'Connell

A COUPLE will tie the laces of their air-cushioned trainers before they tie the knot when they get married while running in the Flora London Marathon next month.

Mick Gambrill and Barbara Cole, from Croydon, South London, who have competed in 100 marathons between them, will say their vows at the two-mile marker, then finish the rest of the 26.2-mile race as man and wife. To mark the occasion the couple, who are experienced club runners, will be chauffeured from their hotel to the starting line, where they will lead off the field of 30,000 runners.

"We spend most of our lives running marathons and thought it would be just perfect to get married during one. We are absolutely thrilled to bits," Ms Cole said.

Mr Gambrill said: "We've run in just about every race there is and we've never heard of anything like this before, so we're really excited."

After a ten-minute sprint they will arrive at Charlton House, a Jacobean mansion alongside the course in Greenwich, where their guests will be waiting. They will jog into the building together to be greeted by a recording of the Tina Turner song *Simply the Best*, which has become an anthem for athletes.

Mick Gambrill's tattoo, instead of a ring

"Hopefully we'll get time to grab a glass of bubbly along the way," Mr Gambrill said.

Ms Cole, 43, a teacher at a special school in Thornton Heath, Surrey, will be given a gold ring that Mr Gambrill will zip into his nylon running bracelet for safe-keeping during the first two miles. Mr Gambrill, 46, a printer at Thanet Press, is unable to wear jewellery at work, so he has a tattoo on his bicep featuring the wedding date.

A team of stylists under the direction of the designer Jeff Banks plan to restyle the couple who are usually found in shorts, fleeces and Lycra. The custom-made wedding day outfits, the designs of which remain a secret, will be "glamorous but easy to move in". Ms Cole will wear white.

The running partners first met six years ago in Lanzarote while training for endurance races. But they were both involved in relationships at the time. "We got on immediately and met up at various races afterwards and then it eventually happened," said Mr Gambrill, who has a son and a daughter by his previous marriage.

They moved in together three years ago and got engaged while running the Disney Marathon on New Year's Eve 1997.

They are expected to complete the race on April 18 in just over five hours, hours longer than their usual running times. "For once we don't care how long it takes us to get round, as long as we get there," Mr Gambrill said.

INSIDE SECTION 2



What is Chris Evans doing for Books for Schools?

Who has been stealing tokens from copies of The Times belonging to the House of Commons?

How can your school improve its collection of tokens and claim even more Free Books for Schools?

The answers to all these questions, and more, are revealed on page 37 today

Irvine in dock over jobs for the boys

By Christine Middap

THE Lord Chancellor chooses to be surrounded by white men, a hearing into race and sex discrimination allegations against him was told yesterday. Lord Irvine of Lairg appointed white men to work for him and his circle of contacts was "overwhelmingly male".

The employment tribunal sitting in Croydon, South London, was hearing claims by two women that Lord Irvine and the Lord Chancellor's Department had discriminated against them by failing to advertise the job of special adviser to the Lord Chancellor or to consider them for it. Karon Monaghan, counsel for one of the women, Martha Osamor, said: "Our research suggests the Lord Chancellor has only known one black person for a long time."

The Lord Chancellor appointed Garry Hart, a senior partner in the London law firm Herbert Smith, who is also the godfather of Tony Blair's daughter, to the £73,000 position a year ago. Under the rules of appointment for special advisers, Lord Irvine was not required to advertise the position. The tribunal heard that Lord Irvine had wanted to appoint someone with whom he had long experience and in whom he had complete trust and confidence.

> 'He has known only one black person for some time'

Ms Osamor, 59, a legal adviser, and Jane Coker, 44, an immigration lawyer, say that those specifications limited the number of black people and women who could be considered for the position, because the Lord Chancellor's circle of contacts consisted overwhelmingly of white men.

"The Lord Chancellor's world was overwhelmingly a male world and that was the world from which he chose Mr Hart," said Jane Deighton, the solicitor for both women, who is acting as counsel for Ms Coker.

Ms Coker said that she had researched the Lord Chancellor's history of social and professional contacts and believed that the number of women with whom he had had professional contact was small.

She said that he had gone to a men's college at Cambridge, was a member of the all-male Garrick club and that, when he established his chambers in 1981, he had hired white men and one white woman. She said that he had had no black tenants until 1994 and few women tenants.

Richard McManus, counsel for the Lord Chancellor and his department, said that Lord Irvine had appointed his personal secretary, a woman, and that he had appointed women and people from ethnic minorities as silks.

Mr McManus also said that the pool of senior lawyers available for Lord Irvine to choose from included more white men than women or members of ethnic minorities. He said to Ms Coker: "The picture you paint of the Lord Chancellor's world is a slanted picture." She replied: "No." Mr McManus put to Ms Osamor that Lord Irvine was simply following normal procedure in the appointment of Mr Hart. "I don't know what the normal procedure is: all I know is that it is not right," Ms Osamor replied.

Mr McManus asked Ms Coker how the Lord Chancellor could have appointed her when he needed someone in whom he had total trust. Ms Coker, who has never met Lord Irvine, said: "It is not necessary to know somebody to select them for a post in which they will need to build up a close, trusting working relationship. He failed to permit me to show that I met the criteria."

Ms Monaghan said the pair had been treated differently from Mr Hart because of their gender and, in Ms Osamor's case, because she was black. She urged the tribunal to draw an adverse inference from the Lord Chancellor's decision not to give evidence. "He's not above the law," she said.

The hearing continues.

Osamor and Coker accuse the Lord Chancellor of bias

Thousands caught in travel paper chaos

Businessmen and tourists stranded by immigration office's computer problems, reports Richard Ford

A COMPUTER project costing £77 million to speed immigration and asylum decisions is at least 14 months behind schedule, causing chaos for thousands of people unable to update travel documents.

Plans to make 500 staff redundant at the Immigration and Nationality Directorate have been abandoned after warnings that job losses could cause more delays for the public, according to a government watchdog report today. More problems could be in store because the limited software being used by the directorate is not year-2000 compliant.

The National Audit Office report says that, in retrospect, the project was too ambitious.

Thousands of people, including foreign businessmen and travellers, have been stranded in Britain because their passports cannot be located at the directorate's offices in Croydon, South London. Jack Straw yesterday made his second visit in five weeks to Croydon as the Home Office admitted that applicants "trapped" in Britain and unable to travel could receive ex-gratia payments from the Government.

Mr Straw said: "I regard turning the situation round at Croydon as the most important management task in the Home Office."

People requiring work permits have suffered months of delays because of chaos at Croydon caused by the new working practices and the delays in computer upgrading under a contract agreed by the Conservative Government.

Sir John Bourn, head of the National Audit Office, says in his report that it is a matter of concern that the directorate has not secured delivery of the project on time. "The directorate, applicants and the taxpayer have not yet received the full benefits the project was intended to produce."


Sir John Bourn: said the project was too ambitious

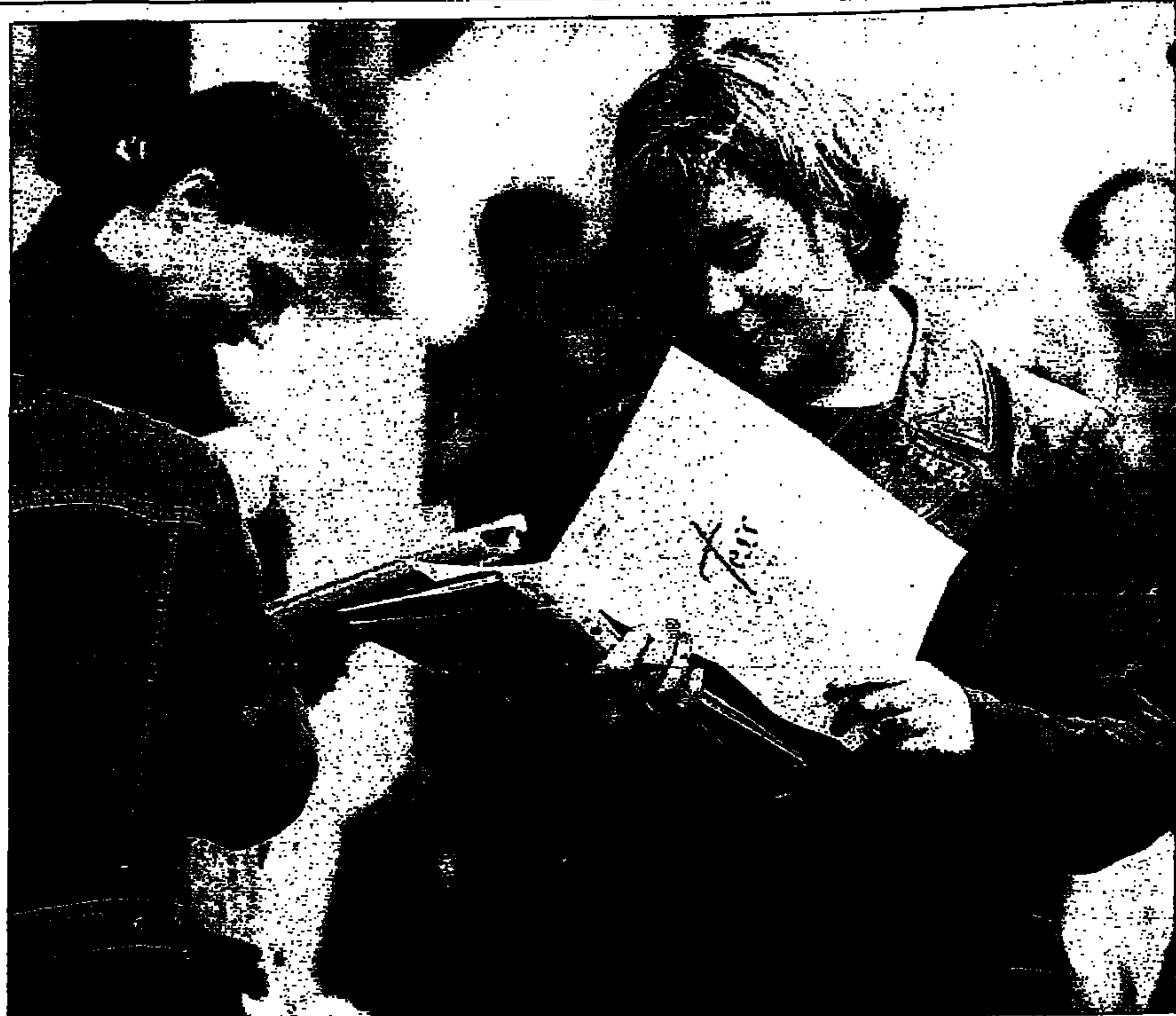
The report adds: "There are many examples of bespoke projects such as this one, which in retrospect can be seen to have been too ambitious, despite there having been enthusiastic bids for the work from prospective suppliers."

The aim of the contract awarded to Siemens Business Services was to switch from paper to a computer-based system. Computers were to be upgraded and officials trained in new working methods.

But problems arose when it was decided to abandon plans to use existing information technology packages and create tailormade software. Under the previous Government it was decided to press ahead without renegotiating a new timetable for implementing the project. That meant that the partial introduction of the system in April 1998 was put back to later this summer.

The problems have been compounded by the relocation of 1,000 staff from the directorate's headquarters at Lunar House to another office in the nearby Whitgift Centre in Croydon. The staff plus 200,000 paper files, stretching for 14 miles, began moving in December and in the chaos travel documents have been mislaid.

The directorate is telling people in urgent need of travel documents to approach embassies and high commissions to request new ones.


Zoe Machson, 23, waiting to audition yesterday. The producers say Hardy's bleak novel is "strangely life-affirming"

Hunt for Tess with a song in her heart

By Helen Rumbelow

THE search for an actress to play Thomas Hardy's doomed heroine in a romantic musical based on his bleak novel *Tess of the D'Urbervilles* began yesterday at open auditions in London. Outside the theatre stood a queue of 200 doleful women, including one in traditional Wessex dress and sporting a harp.

Each was hoping for a part in the all-singing, all-dancing adaptation of the novel, with lyrics by Justin Fleming and music by Stephen Edwards, that comes to the West End this autumn, sponsored by Nestlé Matchmakers.

Bruce Athol MacKinnon, who designed the production by the JFK Repertory Company, said there would be no high-kicking milkmaids or blockbuster finales. In an effort to avoid the media lampooning meted out to *Heathcliff*, a musical adaptation of *Wuthering Heights* starring Sir Cliff Richard as the brooding anti-hero, they have stayed as close as possible to the spirit of Hardy. The concept is of a "modern opera" rather than a *Tess*-style pop show. "It is an epic love story that is strangely life-affirming, rather than depressing, like *Miss Saigon*, or *Madam Butterfly*. Sad but beautiful."

It opens with Tess meeting her beloved Angel Clare in the rustic comedy of a Dorset dairy; her dark past with the dastardly Alec D'Urberville is told in a "danced flashback".

Mr MacKinnon said: "Hardy was a huge fan of people developing his work — there was an opera version of *Tess* performed at the turn of the century, although they only did the first half of the book. He himself wrote a play of *Tess*." Among contemporary adaptations are Roman Polanski's film, starring Nastassja Kinski, and a recent dramatisation for television.

The musical's director, Karen Hebden, said: "We're not looking for a Kinski, but a girl with real spark to her, that fits a woman's version of Tess rather than a man's. I'm not convinced we've moved on so far since the last century in terms of sexual politics. Monica Lewinsky was asked how she could have fallen for such a creep; that was pure Tess of a century ago."

NEWS IN BRIEF

54 held in police raids

Five hundred police made a series of raids against drug dealers, burglars and receivers linked to the Salford area. Officers from Greater Manchester Police arrested 43 men and 11 women, and recovered a sawn-off shotgun and two pistols. The raids followed a year-long undercover operation that found stolen property and drugs worth about £500,000.

Braille monthly

A monthly braille magazine for young men with sight problems will be launched next month by the Royal National Institute for the Blind. *SP* will feature relationships, health, sex and entertainment.

Badger abuse

Richard Atkins, 31, and Lee Burton, 25, both of Swadlincote, Derbyshire, have been jailed for two months for digging for badgers to fight their dogs. They were banned from keeping dogs for three years.

Driver plastered

A motorist who drove with his entire right leg encased in plaster was fined £300 for careless driving. Kenneth Irvine, 24, had his licence endorsed with four penalty points by Paisley Sheriff Court.

Think pink

Newly planted saplings in the Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire, are to to have luminous pink bands painted on their trunks to deter thieves who stole an £80 douglas fir from Linear Park in Cinderford.

Stalker is found dead in her car

A WOMAN bank worker who was convicted of stalking a businessman has been found dead.

The body of Angela Reid, an assistant manager with the TSB, was found in a fume-filled car in a forest near Newport, South Wales. Police said that her death was not being treated as suspicious.

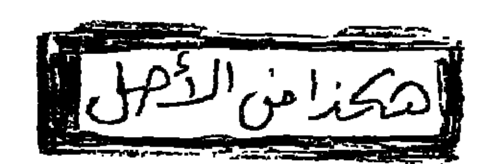
Miss Reid, 40, had been embarrassed after appearing in court for stalking a client, Simon Butler, whom she had harassed for six months after a one-night stand. She was given a conditional discharge by magistrates in Pontypridd seven months ago. They decided not to jail her because a prison sentence would ruin her career.

Miss Reid was a rising executive with the TSB until her fling with Mr Butler, a restaurateur. Magistrates were told that afterwards she had circulated a photograph of him, with the words "no-good bastard" written on it, to his restaurant, and that she had sent letters to his ex-wife and parents saying he took drugs and drank too much.

The court was told that she had met Mr Butler, 33, six years earlier when he opened a mortgage account at the TSB, and that "there had been continuous business dealing between them". However, she began ringing him continually, even after he had changed to a silent number. The calls, the court was told, then became more threatening.

Miss Reid was on long-term sick leave from the TSB, which declined to comment.

A friend of Miss Reid said: "The court case was a terrible strain on her and her career. Everyone knew about it."



£1,000 fine for drivers who block bus lanes

By Arthur Leathley, Transport Correspondent

MOTORISTS will be fined up to £1,000 for blocking bus lanes as part of a government campaign to improve bus services.

Hundreds of cameras will also be introduced on buses and at the roadside to record drivers leaving their vehicles in designated bus lanes. They are among a package of measures in a document unveiled by John Prescott yesterday that aims to increase the numbers of bus passengers by up to a fifth.

The Deputy Prime Minister dismissed as inadequate the £20 fixed penalty fines currently imposed by police on drivers who block bus lanes. The Government's blueprint for bus travel suggests that enforcement be carried out by specialist wardens better able to bring prosecutions leading to the £1,000 fine.

Ministers have been encouraged by the fact that a decline in bus travel stretching back almost 50 years was reversed last year. The 1 per cent rise in passenger travel is seen as evidence that bus lanes, better quality buses and stricter enforcement of timetables can encourage motorists to leave their cars at home.

With bus passengers outnumbering rail travellers by three to one, ministers believe that local buses offer the quickest solution to town centre traffic congestion and in linking remote rural areas. Some £150 million will be spent setting up new rural services within three years.

A crackdown on motorists using bus stops is also proposed in the blueprint. Trials of bus-mounted cameras in London have proved successful in speeding up journeys by up to 40 per cent, and 360 cameras are to be installed in the capital. Nationwide expansion of the scheme is likely.

Mr Prescott lauded the recent success of several towns and cities, including Manchester, Birmingham, Ipswich, Edinburgh and Brighton, where bus travel had risen by up to 40 per cent in the past two years.

"Buses represent the best opportunity for leading a renaissance of public transport in this country. At the end of the day, it is what the passenger wants that matters," he said

Mr Prescott criticised some bus operators for running old and unreliable buses, failing to follow timetables and charging high fares. He said that new laws would be introduced enabling local authorities to create legally binding contracts that would force bus operators to stick to services.

Among policies put forward in the document were more powers for traffic commissioners to act against operators who fail to run services as advertised. Half-price travel is to be provided for all pensioners, although most local authorities already offer at least 50 per cent reductions.

The document proposes making local authorities responsible for ensuring that adequate bus information was available. It also calls for more flexible ticketing arrangements between bus operators and the rail industry.

The Conservatives said that the document was "another glossy brochure" with very little new in it, and the Liberal Democrats said that, without urgent legislation and extra cash, Mr Prescott's "thoroughbred dream will not be able to get out of the starting blocks".

The bus industry welcomed the statement. Help the Aged applauded measures to introduce half-price travel, but said it hoped that, in areas where pensioners enjoyed reductions of more than 50 per cent, special fares would not rise to the half-price level.

JAY WILLIAMS



Simon de Bruxelles waiting half an hour at Nunney yesterday to begin a journey requiring three buses. On two of them he was the only passenger

Grass-routes travel: too little, too late

19-mile rural bus trip costs £5 and takes Simon de Bruxelles 3 hours

I AM looking forward to lunch at The George in Nunney, Somerset, when my mobile rings. "How quickly could you get home ..." asks the news editor, pausing before adding, "... by bus?"

By car, the 19-mile journey to Broughton Gifford, across the border in Wiltshire, takes about 25 minutes. Lunchless, I begin a rural ride that takes three hours and three buses, followed by a mile on foot, costs nearly £5 and convinces me that, while rural bus services might be a good idea, the reason they barely exist is because nobody who has to pay the full fare is ever likely to use them.

My journey begins in the marketplace in Nunney, not a bad place to wait half an hour for a bus. There is a river lined with daffodils and a medieval bridge with a spectacular ruined castle as its backdrop. Even the bus shelter is thatched, though you wouldn't want to go inside.

I am so engrossed in the scenery, and the bus driver so surprised to see a passenger, that he does not even slow down until I yell: "Oi, stop that bus."

The only passenger, I take the front seat for the four-mile drive to Frome, the nearest town. Cost: a modest 50p. Six minutes later, right on time, I am dropped off in the town centre to await my connection.

In the tourist information centre, four middle-aged women are only too anxious to tell me about the local bus services. "They're a joke," says one, "unless you want to go to work by bus, in which case they aren't funny at all, because you can't."

It turns out I am fortunate to have begun my journey at Nunney. Wincanton, further south in Somerset, also has a bus service to Frome, but it runs only on the first Saturday of every month.

NEXT BUS ... SOMETIME TO-DAY (PROBABLY)

START Nunney — Frome — Changed bus — A36 — Trowbridge — Changed bus — A361 — FINISH Broughton Gifford — N

Deregulation means a blizzard of paper giving times of services by different operators. Trying to work out the connections gives me a headache, so I ask for the time of the next bus to Bradford-on-Avon, the nearest town to Broughton Gifford.

"I'm sorry," says another of the helpful women, "but the Bradford-on-Avon bus now goes to Chippenham. If you get off at Trowbridge there's probably a bus to Broughton Gifford, though I don't know the times."

An hour later, the double-decker arrives ten minutes late and, when I offer the driver a £1 coin, he sniffs and says: "£2.35, mate." Upstairs I admire the view as we go down every back lane between Frome and Trowbridge, ducking every time overhanging branches smash against the windows. Once again I am the only passenger.

Trowbridge proves a depressing detour. I am deposited in the town centre and am told the bus to Broughton Gifford leaves in 35 minutes. I kill time in a bookshop, spending more than I saved by resisting the temptation to go by taxi.

The bus to Broughton Gifford arrives on time and fills up almost immediately. I share the back seat with a fat boy with a US Marine-style haircut and a woman in combat gear and a bandanna. An old man shuffles on and tells everyone how lucky he is to have found a bus going in his direction.

We arrive in Broughton Gifford at 3.10pm. The five-mile journey has cost £1.50. I have a mile to walk home, but it proves to be the most pleasant part of a journey I am not anxious to repeat.

Unfortunately, I have little choice. I now have to go back to collect my car.

Internet plots way around speed cameras

By Mark Henderson

A MILITANT motoring organisation is leading a backlash against speed cameras by publishing full details of their locations on the Internet.

Motorists can plan their journeys around Britain's estimated 2,000 cameras by consulting the website set up by the Association of British Drivers, which claims to stand up for the civil rights of the road user.

Visitors to the Website are invited to send in details of new cameras or inactive ones by e-mail, and a £15 annual membership buys regular updates with maps showing the latest traps. The list was revised as recently as last Sunday, to add a new camera on the A421 in Bedfordshire.

The number of drivers fined or prosecuted on the evidence of speed cameras has grown from 290 in 1992, the first year in which they were allowed, to more than 262,000 in 1996, the last year for which figures are available.

Up to 85 per cent of cameras are left switched off because it costs more than £8,000 a year to keep them supplied with film, but new digital versions will mean many more can be left running at a fraction of that sum.

The ABD site competes with the American Speedtrap Registry, which details a wide selection of traps around Britain.

The most speed-trapped stretch of road, according to its site, is the A697 in the Scottish Borders, which features eight sets of cameras in close proximity.

The American site identifies even more on the A10 in Enfield, North London, where 12 sets monitor speeds and traffic lights.

☐ Netlinks: www.deltacom.co.uk/abd/index.htm British Drivers' Association homepage www.speedtrap.com/index.html Speedtrap Registry

Cancer mix-up cost woman her breast

Hospital may face £500,000 compensation claim, reports **Ian Murray**

A HOSPITAL trust has admitted responsibility for a laboratory test mistake that led to a young mother having a healthy breast removed after cancer was wrongly diagnosed.

Last month Anita Froggatt, 28, from Chesterfield, Derbyshire, had her right breast and six lymph nodes removed because a laboratory report said that a biopsy taken from her was cancerous.

Her ordeal began at Christmas when she noticed a lump the size of a marble on her right breast. She was relieved when two biopsies proved negative and a scan was also clear but as a precaution she opted to have the lump removed. It was cut away and taken to the pathology laboratory for routine tests. However, these showed she did have cancer so she agreed to have her breast removed.

As she was about to start a course of chemotherapy, further tests on tissue taken from her revealed it to be perfectly healthy.

When the mistake was discovered a laboratory worker was put on paid leave until an investigation is completed but the surgeon who carried out the operation has not been suspended.

"There can be no blame attached there at all," said Christopher Day, the medical director of Chesterfield and North Derbyshire Royal Hospital NHS Trust. "It is a tragic situation and we take full responsibility," he said. "We have given her a frank explanation of events and of course, a full apology. We have discussed the options available now and the help we can offer — including counselling."

A hospital spokeswoman said no other patient was involved. "It might have been a wrong diagnosis or it could have been that a slide from someone with cancer was read twice and the second reading was wrongly thought to be from Mrs Froggatt's slide." Checks had been increased.

The trust could face a compensation claim of up to £500,000. The spokeswoman said: "We appreciate that the patient is entitled to compensation, but we have not been contacted by a lawyer yet. We want to support this lady as much as possible and a compensation case dragging out would not be ideal."

Mrs Froggatt has lost her factory job because the removal of her lymph glands restricts the use of her arm. She said yesterday: "I couldn't believe what they had done to me for nothing. They have ruined my life."

Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, said: "It makes me feel ill just thinking about it. I will be writing to this poor lady and have asked for immediate action to ensure this never happens again."

Paul and Anita Froggatt: "They ruined my life," she said


David Penn, who won first prize in a competition to invent a millennium gadget, demonstrates his room locator

Boy shows the way to lost souls

A COMPETITION to invent a gadget for the millennium has been won by a ten-year-old boy whom the organisers mistook for an adult (Elizabeth Judge writes). David Penn, from Stowmarket, Suffolk, came up with a homing device to help lost hotel guests to find their rooms in the maze of identical corridors and doors.

When the organisers of the competition, run by the Post House Hotel Group, wrote to inform "Mr Penn" that he had won, they had no idea he was a schoolboy. A spokesman said: "We were expecting him to be in his thirties. We were totally surprised to find out he was so young. His gadget shows sheer genius."

The handheld device, named a "room locator", looks like a calculator. When a hotel key is inserted, flashing arrows on the screen will work with sensors in the hotel to lead users to their rooms. David has applied for a patent on his design.

The first prize was supposed to be two nights in an hotel on New Year's Eve. David opted instead for a party with his friends and his favourite meal of hamburgers and chips.

Woman of 55 has second test-tube baby

By Adrian Lee

A WOMAN who became Britain's oldest mother of a test-tube baby two years ago has given birth again, two months short of her 56th birthday.

Pauline Lyon, who caused controversy when she lied about her age to try to secure fertility treatment five years ago, had a healthy boy at Hinchingbrooke Hospital in Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, on Monday.

Mrs Lyon said before the birth: "I know a lot of people will disagree with what we are doing, but it will be wonderful for our daughter to have a little brother or sister to play and grow up with."

Before their daughter, Lauren, was conceived, Mrs Lyon and her husband, Dave, 53, a prison officer, from March, Cambridgeshire, advertised in newspapers and local shops seeking an egg donor.

Last year Liz Buttle, 61, from Lampeter, West Wales, who also hid her age, took Mrs Lyon's record as the oldest mother to have a test-tube baby following treatment in Britain. Both women were treated at the London Gynaecology and Fertility Centre in Harley Street. Mrs Lyon had lied to another clinic in an unsuccessful attempt to gain treatment.


Pauline Lyon with her daughter Lauren

Ian Craft, director of the centre, said yesterday: "Mrs Lyon had every reason to have another child. She is a wonderful, competent mother and to have a boy to go with the little girl is great." He said there had been natural conceptions at the age of 55 — the upper limit that the clinic sets for fertility treatment. Professor Craft said: "I am much more concerned by very young conceptions."

An Italian woman gave birth to a test-tube baby at the age of 62.



Watchdog attacks Street deal

Soap opera storyline has incurred the wrath of the Office of Fair Trading, reports Carol Midgley

A PRICE-FIXING deal between two shops that has featured in the plot of *Coronation Street* has been condemned by the Office of Fair Trading.

Officials said the soap's newsagent, Rita Sullivan, and its corner-shop owner, Ravi Desai, had made an illegal agreement that set a bad example to the public. In the storyline, Mrs Sullivan has pledged not to sell cheap bread and, in return, Mr Desai has promised to stop stocking cut-price newspapers.

In its first warning on a television plot, the trading watchdog said that such deals were anti-competitive and could be referred to the Restrictive Practices Court. While Granada Television defended the storyline as "harmless", the Office of Fair Trading said that, if unchallenged, it endorsed a breach of the law.

Mrs Sullivan's foster daughter, Sharon Gaskell, had begun the price war by selling cheap bread while she was looking after the shop. Mr Desai's daughter, Nita, who runs the corner shop, retaliated by stocking papers. But Mrs Sullivan and Mr Desai later made a deal that they would not take away each other's trade.

An Office of Fair Trading spokesman said: "If there was a case like this in real life we would definitely have to look at it. It could be seen as a market-sharing agreement because it is restricting competition between shops, as defined under the Restrictive Practices Act.

"Most agreements where two or more parties agree to restrict their freedom to compete must be sent to the Office of Fair Trading.

"We take a strong line against price-fixing and market-sharing, but suspect that some of these agreements go on because people are unaware of the law.

"Agreements do not have to be written down to be covered by the legislation. If this law is broken we will instruct the businesses to stop the practice and, if they persist, they could end up in prison for contempt of court."

The spokesman added: "It will be interesting to see how the storyline develops and we will be watching it closely."

Granada Television seemed unaware that such a deal would be ruled illegal. A spokesman said: "It was just a gentleman's agreement between Ravi Desai and Rita Fairclough. Mr Desai agreed not to sell newspapers at the corner shop and Mrs Fairclough agreed not to sell bread at The Kabin. As far as we are concerned they were just keeping to an agreement which stretches back 20 years to the time of Alf Roberts."

She added: "We do not feel the agreement is restricting competition because Coronation Street residents can go to the Freshco Supermarket if they don't want to shop locally. It does not restrict them from buying what they want and it's not market-sharing because the shops don't sell the same things.

"I don't know whether the scriptwriters want to bring the Office of Fair Trading into the storyline, but we feel it is a harmless story."





Ravi Desai, the *Coronation Street* corner-shop owner played by Saeed Jaffrey, has struck a deal with Rita Sullivan (Barbara Knox) that suits both parties

When soaps bubble over into reality

IT IS not the first time that soap operas have made waves in the real world. Last year the Prime Minister demanded the release of Deirdre Rachid from prison, to the derision of political commentators. Mrs Rachid, a character from *Coronation Street*, had been wrongfully imprisoned for fraud, to the outrage of viewers. A spokesman for Tony Blair said at the time: "The power to free her lies with the scriptwriters and they would do well to hear public and parliamentary opinion. While they are at it, they should ensure that Sally and Kevin, the Websters, whose marriage is in trouble, live happily ever after as well."

The jailing of the fireman George Jackson in Channel 4's *Brookside* prompted a national campaign to free him. T-shirts were issued, "Free George Jackson" graffiti began appearing on walls and a pop record of the same title was released.

Brookside angered cancer charities when it featured an elderly woman dying at home in agony because she did not have enough morphine to control her pain. Macmillan Cancer Relief and other charities made statements emphasising that, in reality, cancer patients would never be left to suffer such pain.

Reindeer farmers call for boycott of Ikea

BY NICK NUTTALL
ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

LAPLANDERS are calling on British shoppers to boycott Ikea, claiming that the Swedish furniture retailer is failing to protect their ancient reindeer-grazing lands.

The Sami, a semi-nomadic people, say that Swedish forest companies exporting wood products to Britain are robbing them of their ancient winter grazing. They are urging consumers and companies to support only those wood products backed by the Forest Stewardship Council scheme.

About 85 companies, including B&Q and Sainsbury's Homebase, have joined the council's certification scheme. But Olof Johansson, a Sami reindeer herder from Asarna, central Sweden, urged more businesses to put pressure on woodland owners and timber shippers in Sweden, from where Britain gets 20 per cent of its wood, to help to protect the Sami way of life.

Susanne Bergstramd, environmental manager for Ikea, said yesterday that the company was aware of the difficulties facing the Sami. Ikea was trying to source certified wood, including Forest Stewardship Certified products. But she conceded that the company "could not guarantee" that shoppers were being sold furniture and wood items under the scheme.

Steve Howard, of the World Wide Fund for Nature, which is backing the Sami, said yesterday: "Ikea should use its muscle to get forest owners properly certified. Some companies have put their heads above the parapet; ones such as Ikea should too."

For centuries the Sami, who number 3,000 in Sweden, have herded reindeer from summer mountain areas into winter woodlands. But in recent years large forest companies have sold off land to smaller landlords, who claim that the reindeer damage trees.

Patient's daughter defends doctor

BY A CORRESPONDENT

THE daughter of a woman allegedly starved to death on a doctor's orders yesterday backed the doctor's judgment.

The woman, named only as Mrs D, said that she and her three sisters were relieved when they heard that Ken Taylor had told nurses at the [illegible]ford House nursing home in Presti[illegible] to stop "force-feeding" 85-year-old Mary Ormerod in June 1995. She told the General Medical Council's professional conduct committee that neither she nor her sisters had exerted any influence over Dr Taylor's decision.

Mrs D told the committee of Dr Taylor's unstinting support for the family and of his frequent visits to examine Mrs Ormerod. She said that, after a major stroke in 1994, her mother had no longer appeared to be able to take fluids, but that, after a discussion with Dr Taylor and the matron of the home at the time, it was agreed that nurses and care assistants would continue to give her the food supplement Fresubin orally through a syringe. Mrs D said that "it was awful having to watch them forcing it into her".

Mrs D said that none of the nursing staff, with whom she had a good relationship, had ever complained to them about the doctor's instructions, and that the family did not know at the time that nurses had ignored the instruction not to feed Mrs Ormerod during the 58 days before she died.

Dr Taylor, 51, admits instructing nursing staff to stop giving Mrs Ormerod Fresubin, but denies serious professional misconduct. The hearing continues.

Happy birthday? Get a life

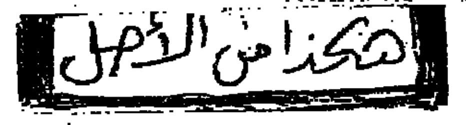
BY IAN MURRAY
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

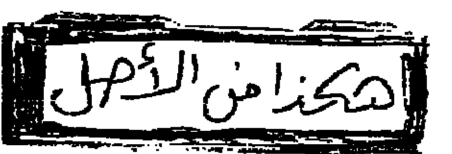
BIRTHDAY cards could be sent by the NHS to people in their forties or fifties with a quiz to increase their chances of a healthy old age.

The idea is among possibilities being considered by the National Screening Committee, which has overall responsibility for devising programmes to give early warning of health risks to individuals. The birthday cards would contain a checklist of lifestyle and health symptoms for early detection of vascular disease and diabetes. Recipients who scored badly would be advised to see their doctor.

Muir Gray, joint director of the committee, told a London conference yesterday that a wider screening programme was being introduced over the next five years. Later this year the committee is to introduce an antenatal and childhood programme, giving all pregnant women the option of being tested for the risk of genetic disorders, and monitoring physical development throughout childhood.

Next year there will be an assessment of the value of screening for testicular, skin and oral cancers. Screenings for ovarian and prostate cancer were in the research stage.


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EU leaders head for compromise to rescue battered image

Deal puts pressure on Britain over rebate, write Charles Bremner and Philip Webster in Berlin

THE European Union's equivalent of the Holy Grail lies just within reach of its leaders as they embark in Berlin today on a mammoth wrangle over money and naming a new chief executive. But the deal still needs painful concessions, mainly from Britain, France, Germany and Spain.

After a year of haggling, the makings of a compromise have emerged that would partially satisfy Britain over its special budget rebate, appease the French over farm spending, calm Mediterranean demands over the cash flow from Brussels and answer some of Germany's need for a drop in its lion's share of EU funding.

As part of the package, Romano Prodi, the former Italian Prime Minister, would replace Jacques Santer as Commission President. A promise of the post to an Italian is central to winning Rome's agreement to paying about £750 million more per year to Brussels, an equation that prompted one EU Ambassador to dub Signor Prodi the "billion euro man".

Gerhard Schröder, the German Chancellor and the EU's president-in-office, yesterday warned his fellow leaders that their mission was "to save the European Union, in the eyes of the public at least, from a deep crisis".

Diplomats believe that the emergency created by the abrupt resignation of all the commissioners has increased the chances of an accord that only last week looked unlikely. The brewing storm over Kosovo is adding to pressure for the EU to demonstrate resolve over its own housekeeping. According to the emerging plan, the new President could take over, along with 19 new commissioners, after approval by the European Parliament in May.

However, the endgame in the wrangle needs Tony Blair and the leaders of the other key states to budge from positions that have been fixed for months and sold to their domestic audiences as "non-negotiable". "It's a matter of who blinks first," a senior German official said.

France, which feels it has been left out on a limb by its German partner and has most to lose, yesterday warned the others that it could walk away from the negotiating table. "It would not be a drama if the reform package is not completed," said Hubert Védrine, the Foreign Minister.

A cut in Britain's rebate from the EU budget is one of a series of concessions deemed vital by the others for the Union to tie up a six-year spending package that is needed before opening the EU to states from central and eastern Europe.

Germany hopes that Mr Blair will accept a plan to continue the "British cheque" while excluding from its ambit funds earmarked for enlarging the Union. This could add £1 billion to Britain's annual bill, but would be softened by other adjustments, including £250 million a year from the Italian concession. Downing Street last night insisted that the plan would bite too deeply into the rebate, negotiated in 1984, and worth £2 billion a year.

Mr Blair would be open to a fierce assault from William Hague and the Eurosceptics if both changes were made. His only consolation would be that, if enlargement is delayed to 2006 — as seems possible given the likely failure of the summit to agree the radical Agenda 2000 package — he would have a long time to prepare public opinion for the near halving of the rebate.

In a pre-summit interview yesterday Mr Blair denied that he was being obstinate over the rebate. It was there for a purpose — to rectify what would otherwise be the "monstrously unjust" situation of Britain having the lowest receipts yet making the second largest net contributions. He appeared to accept, however, that some adjustments at the edges might eventually be forced on Britain. Mr Blair confirmed his support for Signor Prodi as the next Commission President.

Blair should not back Prodi, page 20
Leading article and Letters, page 21

Muse of poetry takes to the Métro

By Adam Sage

IN THE fron row, as Denise Desautel opened a little blue book and began reading her erotic poem, *The Caress*, a tramp clasped a bottle of red wine and smiled. A meaningful look crossed her face as the poem ended. The tramp belched.

Yesterday's encounter in the Paris Métro marked a high point in the latest attempt by the French Government to stimulate artistic creativity. The seven-day national poetry festival — Le Printemps des Poètes — was the brainchild of Catherine Trautmann, Culture Minister.

Holding one of the highest-profile jobs in French politics, with a budget of Fr15 billion (£1.5 billion), she has been unable to escape from the shadow of her predecessor, Jack Lang.

In the 1980s, he threw money at museums and films and set up a music festival, without any impact on artistic inspiration. But that is irrelevant, as Mme Trautmann knows. Critics do not want results. They want innovative happenings, such as the Fr6 million poetry festival which, some say, will satisfy a people deprived of contemporary literature because they do not know it exists.

France in shock as top judge resigns

From Adam Sage in Paris

A POLITICAL earthquake hit France yesterday when the highest-ranking judge and the nation's fifth most important dignitary was forced out of office by a scandal involving sex and money.

In an unprecedented fall from grace, Roland Dumas, 76, said he would step down temporarily as head of the Constitutional Council, the equivalent of the US Supreme Court.

The move follows the testimony of his former mistress, Christine Deviers-Joncour, 51, implicating him in a sleaze inquiry involving the oil group, Elf-Aquitaine.

M Dumas, a former Foreign Minister under the late President Mitterrand, fell victim to two of the new breed of investigating judges, Eva Joly and Laurence Vichnievsky.

Their inquiry into allegations of bribery and fraud at the heart of the French state has overturned the longstanding, if unofficial, immunity of dignitaries. M Dumas's announcement yesterday was welcomed by his Socialist allies but criticised by a number of right-wing politicians. Philippe de Villiers, the Eurosceptic MP, described M Dumas's announcement as inadequate. "He should leave permanently," he said.

After dimissing calls for his resignation, M Dumas yesterday said he would step aside until Mme Joly and Mme Vichnievsky had finished their inquiries. Although he insists that he will return to the post, most lawyers believe he will quit for good.

"I want to be free to continue my search for the truth in the Elf affair and to rediscover my strength, which has been undermined by the blows I have received over the past few months," M Dumas said.

The hardest of these blows have come from Mme Deviers-Joncour, who is herself under investigation on suspicion of having been given Fr66 million (£6.7 million) by Elf between 1990 and 1993 to lobby the Government.


THOMAS COEX / AFP
Roland Dumas, fifth in the French State's pecking order and the most senior official to resign in the State's history

This month she said M Dumas had benefited from Elf's largesse when he was Foreign Minister, receiving 12 Ancient Greek statues worth a total of Fr264,000 and a flat valued at Fr17.5 million. M Dumas denies the allegations.

Until recently M Dumas was convinced that he would be able to cling to his job as the French political class, led by President Chirac, closed ranks around him. But he failed to appreciate that the public is increasingly aware of the gap between France's *laissez-faire* culture and the transparency of its neighbours.

When Mme Deviers-Joncour wrote an autiobiography entitled *The Whore of the Republic*, public opinion swung in her favour and against M Dumas and newspapers abandoned the traditional taboo on reporting private affairs of public figures.

Yesterday Mme Joly and Mme Vichnievsky were in South Africa on the trail of Alfred Sirven, who is suspected of organising and running Elf's slush fund at the start of the 1990s. If Mr Sirven is found, M Dumas's head may not be the only one to roll. There is evidence to suggest that Elf bankrolled virtually the entire French political system — and notably M Chirac's Gaullist movement — for many years.

LINKS

http://www.best.com/~alexsf/mitterrand/index.html — Mitterrand 1916 - 1996
http://www.conseil-constitutionnel.fr/ang.htm — The Constitutional Council website

Sex-tape official swoops on Kremlin

From Anna Blundy in Moscow

THE Prosecutor-General raided the offices of senior Kremlin officials yesterday in an investigation into illegalities in lucrative construction deals with the Swiss firm Mabatex.

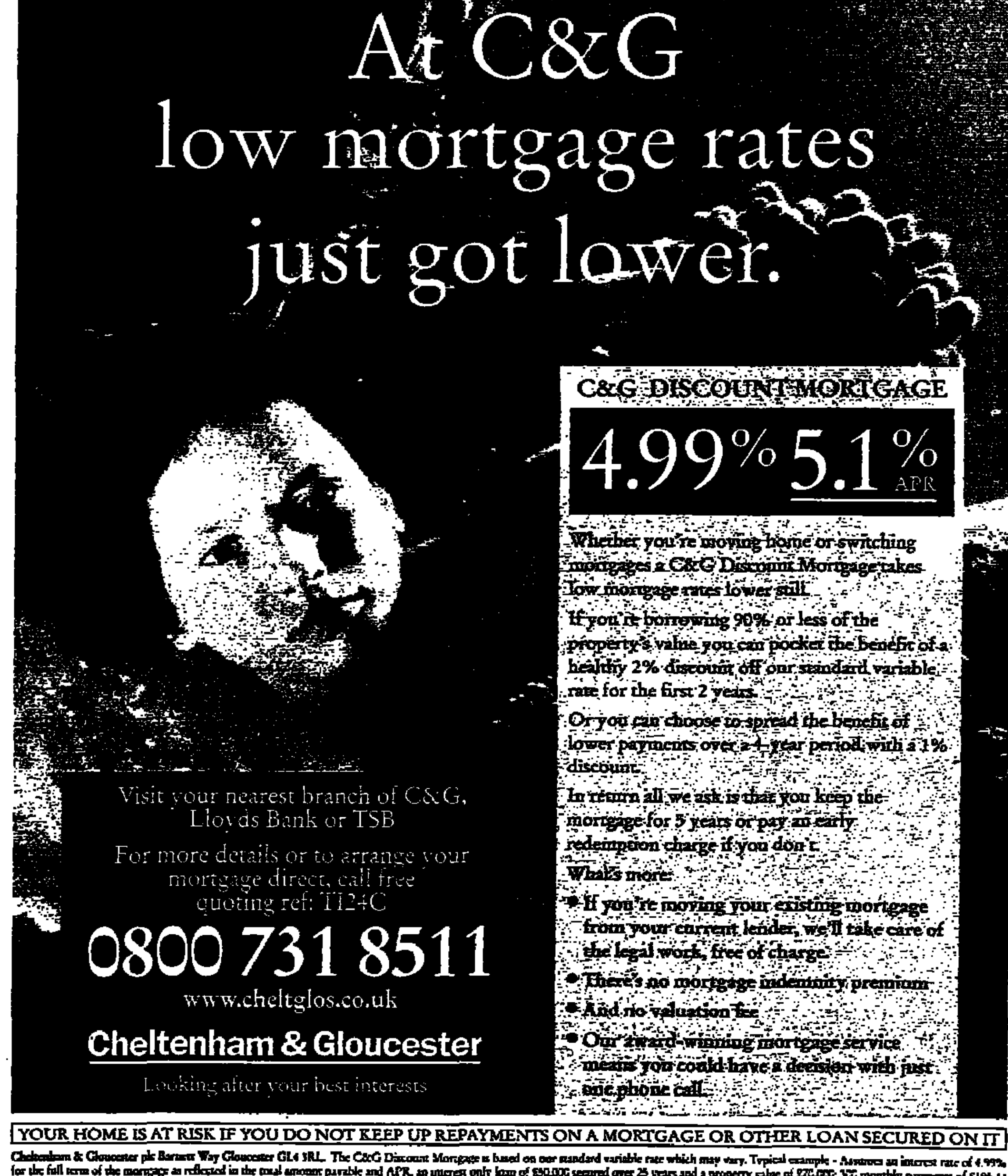
The action came after a scandal of sex and lies rocked Moscow last week and as Carla del Ponte, the Swiss Attorney-General, arrived in Moscow to assist Yuri Skuratov, her Russian counterpart. Mr Skuratov, humiliated last week by the release of a secret video in which he is allegedly shown cavorting with two prostitutes, said: "It is business as usual."

Mabatex won million-dollar contracts to renovate buildings in Russia and has denied any wrongdoing. It has threatened to sue Mr Skuratov.

"The links between these raids, the Skuratov sex scandal and Mabatex are clear," Andrei Piontovsky, a political analyst, said. "A naked man jumping around in video-footage with two girls is no longer the Prosecutor-General, but while he still retains his position he is going to hurt the Kremlin as much as he can."

It is believed that President Yeltsin and his close associates want to be rid of Mr Skuratov because of any compromising material he may hold on them.

Nezavisimaya Gazeta suggested yesterday that the latest developments might signal the end for Mr Yeltsin and his beleaguered staff, who are "wrecked and demoralised".



WORLD SUMMARY

Le Pen faces gun inquiry

Brussels: Jean-Marie Le Pen, the leader of France's far right National Front, is under investigation by Belgian police after unlicensed weapons and teargas grenades were found in his car here (Charles Bremner writes).

M Le Pen was detained briefly along with his driver and bodyguard after police inspected his car on Sunday night. In Paris, his party said: "Neither the car nor the weapons belong to M Le Pen." But it referred to "our vehicle" and "protection equipment".

Cyprus bomb

Nicosia: Savvas Savva, the chief game warden of Cyprus, was killed when a bomb exploded in his car in Limassol. Police suspect that Mr Savva, 51, had angered poachers and are questioning a man.

Leader killed

Asunción, Paraguay: Gunmen assassinated the Vice-President, Luis Maria Argana, while he was driving to work. Tension rose in this new democracy where President Cubas is fighting impeachment calls. *(AP)*

Annan inquiry

New York: Kofi Annan, the UN Secretary-General, who has been criticised for his role in Rwanda while head of UN peacekeeping, has ordered an independent inquiry into the UN's reaction to the 1994 genocide.

Kidnap ends



Bangkok: Hong Won-myong, above, the kidnapped 19-year-old son of a North Korean envoy, was freed by the country's Thai embassy, ending a diplomatic stand-off. *(Reuters)*

Ships fired on

Tokyo: Patrol boats have chased and fired warning shots at two suspected North Korean ships, Japan's first naval engagement since 1953. *(Reuters)*

Rivals fall out of love with Shakespeare

Oscars hit by accusations of unfairness, writes Giles Whittell

THE winner of the Oscar for the year's best film, Shakespeare in Love, has been hit by unlovely griping from rivals who claim fairness was "thrown out the window" by a $15 million (£9.2 million) promotional blitz for the film. As the dust settled in Hollywood yesterday, the question on many minds was: Can an Oscar be bought?

A day after its upset win over Steven Spielberg's *Saving Private Ryan*, producers were still pinching themselves and condemning Miramax, a division of the Disney studio, which paid for the saturation advertising for the Elizabethan-era romantic comedy in the run-up to the awards. One called the strategy "disgusting". Another called it "strong-arm tactics".

Starting before the Oscar nominations were announced last month, Miramax placed glossy full-page advertisements almost daily in the *Hollywood Reporter* and *Daily Variety*, urging Academy members to back *Shakespeare in Love*. The New York-based production company spent up to five times the norm for an Oscar contender on such advertisements, experts have said. It has also been accused — not least by Jeffrey Katzenberg of DreamWorks, the studio behind *Saving Private Ryan* — of setting up telephone banks to cold-call Academy members urging them not to back the Spielberg film.

Yesterday Miramax denied the telephone campaigning allegation as "a 100 per cent categorical lie". Its chairman, Harvey Weinstein, has also denied outspending DreamWorks on advertising in the trade press, claiming after the awards that Warren Beatty had consulted senior executives and concluded that the *Saving Private Ryan* studio had spent most.

But Mr Weinstein is now, more than ever, the mini-mogul the rest of Hollywood loves to hate. "The machinery Harvey puts in place is like a juggernaut," Mark Urman of Lion's Gate Films, which produced *Gods and Monsters*, said. "All predictions, all sense of logic and, in some instances, a sense of fairness is thrown out the window."

The depth of shock in Hollywood's upper echelons over Spielberg's failure to win the most coveted Oscar was brought home by front-page pictures in yesterday's *Los Angeles Times*. One showed Mr Weinstein and his entourage exultant at the Governor's Ball immediately after the awards. The other showed Messrs Spielberg and Katzenberg a few hours later at their own thinly attended party. They looked for all the world like mourners.

Hollywood obsessed, page 20

Teletubbies sue over US copies

THE Teletubbies should have known when they came to America that it was only a matter of time before they would end up in litigation (James Bone writes).

Tinky Winky, Laa-Laa, Po and Dipsy, Britain's most popular children's television characters, have now filed a suit to protect themselves from four cuddly dolls with bulging bellies called the "Bubbly Chubbies" who have turned up in Wal-Mart supermarkets.

"The Bubbly Chubbies characters are obvious, studied copies knockoffs of the famous Teletubbies characters," states the lawsuit against Wal-Mart.

The owners and marketers of the merry band, Ragdoll Productions and Itsy Bitsy Entertainment, are seeking unspecified damages through the federal court in Manhattan.

JILL CONNELLY / REUTERS



Monica Lewinsky and her escort, Jonathan Marshall, arriving for the *Vanity Fair* post-Oscars party at Morton's Restaurant in Beverly Hills

Monica shows off her new man

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

MONICA LEWINSKY is turning heads with a dashing new date. The former presidential girlfriend arrived at *Vanity Fair's* Oscar party in Hollywood on the arm of Jonathan Marshall, the in-house counsel with The Shooting Gallery, a Manhattan film company.

It was the second high-profile date for the pair, who first appeared together in public at The Shooting Gallery's Christmas party, when the company president described Mr Marshall's escort as "his lady".

Friends and co-workers are still divided about whether the two are "in a relationship".

They met last year at a New York dinner party hosted by Herb Ritts, the *Vanity Fair* photographer who shot the famous pictures of an insouciant Monica sprawled on the beach. The friendship developed when they found they worked out at the same gym.

Mr Marshall, 35 and a six-footer, is a graduate of Tulane University in New Orleans.

Police flown in to quell ethnic war in Borneo

FROM DAVID WATTS IN SINGKAWANG, WEST KALIMANTAN



WITH the death toll at about 200, Hercules transports of the Indonesian Air Force disgorged 1,000 police officers to try to stamp out ethnic violence between Madurese migrants and locals yesterday before it spreads further in this province in Borneo.

Thousands of Dayaks and Malays were reported last night to be surrounding an area where 4,000 Madurese remain trapped, awaiting evacuation by two companies of troops on board helicopters. In one incident yesterday, troops with automatic rifles fired volleys to disperse mobs before rescuing a dozen Madurese who were sheltering under tarpaulins.

Three human heads were later seen on the road with two bodies nearby, their hearts and livers cut out. The official Antara news agency said that the military would take charge of the area in an attempt to restore order.

Another 2,000 Madurese were awaiting evacuation at the air base in Singkawang while two teams of soldiers and police evacuated 400 people from Belitung in the Semalantan sub-district.

Reports persisted among distraught families of pockets of people stranded at the mercy of the Malays and Dayaks, who have been rampaging across the area armed with machetes, spears and old rifles, torching homes of fleeing Madurese settlers. So far the burnt houses and pathetic remnants left by a trail of refugees are confined to the lush western seaboard, but there are fears that it could spread if the Government cannot bring it under control soon.

As dusk fell last night, regional experts said they feared that the Madurese might have hidden in the rainforest a few miles inland and be waiting to take revenge. Their women and children, meanwhile, are packing the regional capital, Pontianak, after fleeing in cars, boats and army lorries.

Every available public building has been taken over and, with more arriving all the time, the total has topped 13,000. A large batch arrived overnight in the city's port on an American-built destroyer of the Indonesian Navy that was packed to the gunwales with refugees fleeing from the north.

The road north out of Pontianak to Singkawang shows signs of those who escaped south by more conventional means. Scraps of clothing lie on the narrow tarmac road. Here and there, young men carry the long, curved-blade *parangs* used by farmers clearing land but which are also a devastating weapon.

More than 2,000 Madurese have taken refuge in the Pontianak sports stadium while others are in warehouses and with families. They say they are too frightened to return home and many have little to return to.

It is hard to see how the Government can create the confidence necessary for them to return without taking the risk of involving the armed forces in direct confrontation with either group. Since the army is disliked by both sides, there is the potential for a bloodbath. Nonetheless, the army was last night moving machine-guns and automatic rifles into the main hotel in Singkawang.

The unrest in Kalimantan is materially different from the recent clashes in the Moluccas, the Spice Islands and East Timor, where the land area involved and the issue have been confined. In Kalimantan, it could engulf one of the largest land areas in the archipelago.

All the clashes, including worker demonstrations about economic conditions, are expected to worsen as the June 7 general election draws near — the first free election for 45 years.

LINKS

http://www.sda.or.id/sda/sdap-new/htdocs/link/gov.html — Indonesian Government homepage
http://habibie.ristek.go.id/ — Indonesian President's homepage
http://insideindonesia.org/edit51/hrw1.htm — A report into the indigenous Dayaks in West Kalimantan

Indonesian police wait to board an aircraft in Jakarta yesterday before flying to Kalimantan in Borneo



Islamabad's Ghauri missile is paraded past a portrait of Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the founder of Pakistan. The country's untested Shaheen nuclear ballistic missile, capable of hitting deep inside India, was also put on show

Pakistan parades its nuclear arms

FROM ZAHID HUSSAIN IN ISLAMABAD

IN A show of military power, Pakistan yesterday paraded long-range nuclear ballistic missiles capable of hitting targets deep inside India as its President, Rafiq Tarar, vowed to "teach a lesson to the enemy of the nation".

Its latest and untested Shaheen missile went on display for the first time alongside the surface-to-surface Ghauri missile at a military parade to commemorate the 59th anniversary of the resolution that led to the creation of a homeland for Muslims on the subcontinent. The Ghauri missile, with a range of 937 miles, was test-fired last April, just before Islamabad conducted a series of nuclear tests in response to India's blasts. Thousands of spectators cheered as the missiles passed by.

In a vitriolic speech, Mr Tarar declared that his country could not ignore its security "while an enemy is sitting on the border". He said: "We will gouge out an evil eye cast towards us."

His scathing comments came despite fresh peace moves after a landmark meeting between Nawaz Sharif, the Prime Minister, and Atal Bihari Vajpayee, his Indian counterpart, in Lahore last month. The two pledged to work towards reducing the risk of accidental nuclear war and to resolve all disputes between them through negotiations.

But President Tarar said a settlement of the Kashmir dispute was the only guarantee for peace in the region.

Boer set free after killing black baby

FROM RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

AN AFRIKANER farmer who shot dead a six-month-old black baby walked out of court a free man yesterday after a judge ruled that he had no intention of harming the child.

In a courtroom at Delmas, east of Johannesburg, packed with members of the dead child's family, Judge Tjibbe Spoenstra ruled that the action of Nicholaas Steyn, 35, was not racially motivated but a horrible freak accident. He sentenced him to five years' jail, suspended for five years for criminal negligence.

Mr Spoenstra delivered his verdict entirely in Afrikaans, barely understood by many of those in court, and it was some seconds before they realised what the ruling meant. Amid cries of outrage, Steyn hurried from the dock back to the holding cell below the courtroom instead of out of the door into the street.

Police later escorted him to his car as an angry crowd yelling "Kill the farmer, kill the Boer" tried to set upon him. The child's family said they would appeal against the verdict and an African National Congress leader said he would initiate civil proceedings against Steyn.

In his ruling, Judge Spoenstra also said that Steyn could keep his gun. He said that there had been many violent and murderous attacks on white farmers and Steyn's life could be threatened if he did not have a weapon.

The court heard that the baby, Angelique Zwane, was being carried piggy-back by her 11-year-old cousin along a path close to Steyn's home on a smallholding near Benoni, east of Johannesburg. Steyn claimed he had been attacked on his smallholding before and he could not see who was on the path because of tall grass when he opened fire with a high-velocity rifle. He said he first fired a warning shot and then another round into the air, which killed Angelique and seriously wounded her cousin.

Steyn: allowed to keep his weapon

China admits a third of dams are near collapse

Projects hit by poor quality of work, writes James Pringle

CHINA admitted yesterday that more than a third of its dams constructed during Maoist times when political orthodoxy counted for more than expertise were poorly-built "time bombs" needing repairs.

The official *China Daily* said the Government planned to reinforce 33,000 dams and dykes at an estimated cost of £2.4 billion, saying that they were "poorly built". The work had to be completed by 2010. But there were worries about lack of funds, the article said.

The reports, quoting officials of the Ministry of Water Resources, come when doubts are surfacing in surprisingly frank articles in newspapers and among some senior officials about the wisdom of building the huge Three Gorges Dam across the Yangtze river in its present form.

Some officials believe that while the dam is already too far advanced to be stopped, there should at least be some scaling back of its 610ft height, and the size of a 410-mile-long reservoir behind it.

There have been worries about corruption and poor standards in the building of bridges and other public works in the region where people have died in collapses of such works.

But, with 3,200 dams having failed since 1949, including two in Hunan province in 1975 whose collapse left hundreds of thousands of people dead according to human rights organisations, some observers here wonder whether the whole Three Gorges project might turn into a huge financial, social, ecological and possibly human disaster.

As demonstrations break out among Chinese whose homes are to be submerged by the Yangtze, and dismay emerges among communities which have to make room and find jobs for evacuees when work is scarce anyway, the pet project of Li Peng, China's deputy leader and former Prime Minister, is being questioned as never before.

Public patience has dried up and social unrest has followed the reluctant mass exodus of people from ancestral lands. Pitched battles have been fought between farmers — claiming that their compensation for lost land has been siphoned off — and police.

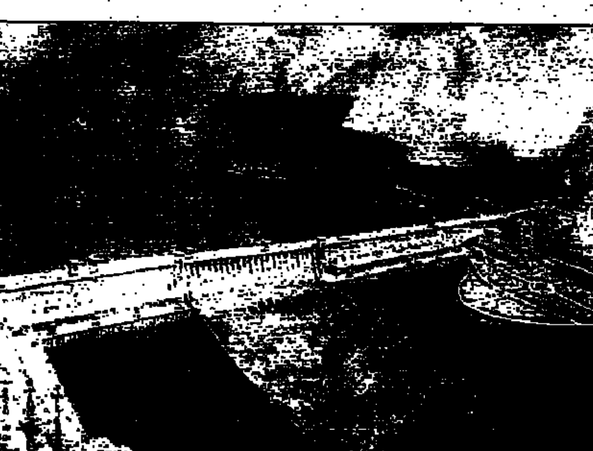
"There have been certain difficulties in raising funds for the second phase of construction," the official Xinhua news agency said last week, quoting project officials.

Zhu Rongji, the Prime Minister, who has never shown any enthusiasm for the dam, recently urged builders of what is the world's largest water conservation and hydropower project to attach the utmost importance to engineering quality to ensure that the gigantic dam "will not bring calamity to China's future generations".

"The responsibility on your shoulders is heavier than a mountain," Mr Zhu told workers at a construction site near Yichang in central Hubei province last December.

Yesterday's *China Daily* report shows what Mr Zhu may be driving at.

Diplomats said the reports indicated that there were diverging views in the Chinese leadership over the merits of the scheme, which some see as a Stalinist project of an earlier age designed to celebrate the legacy of Mr Li, an unpopular hardliner.

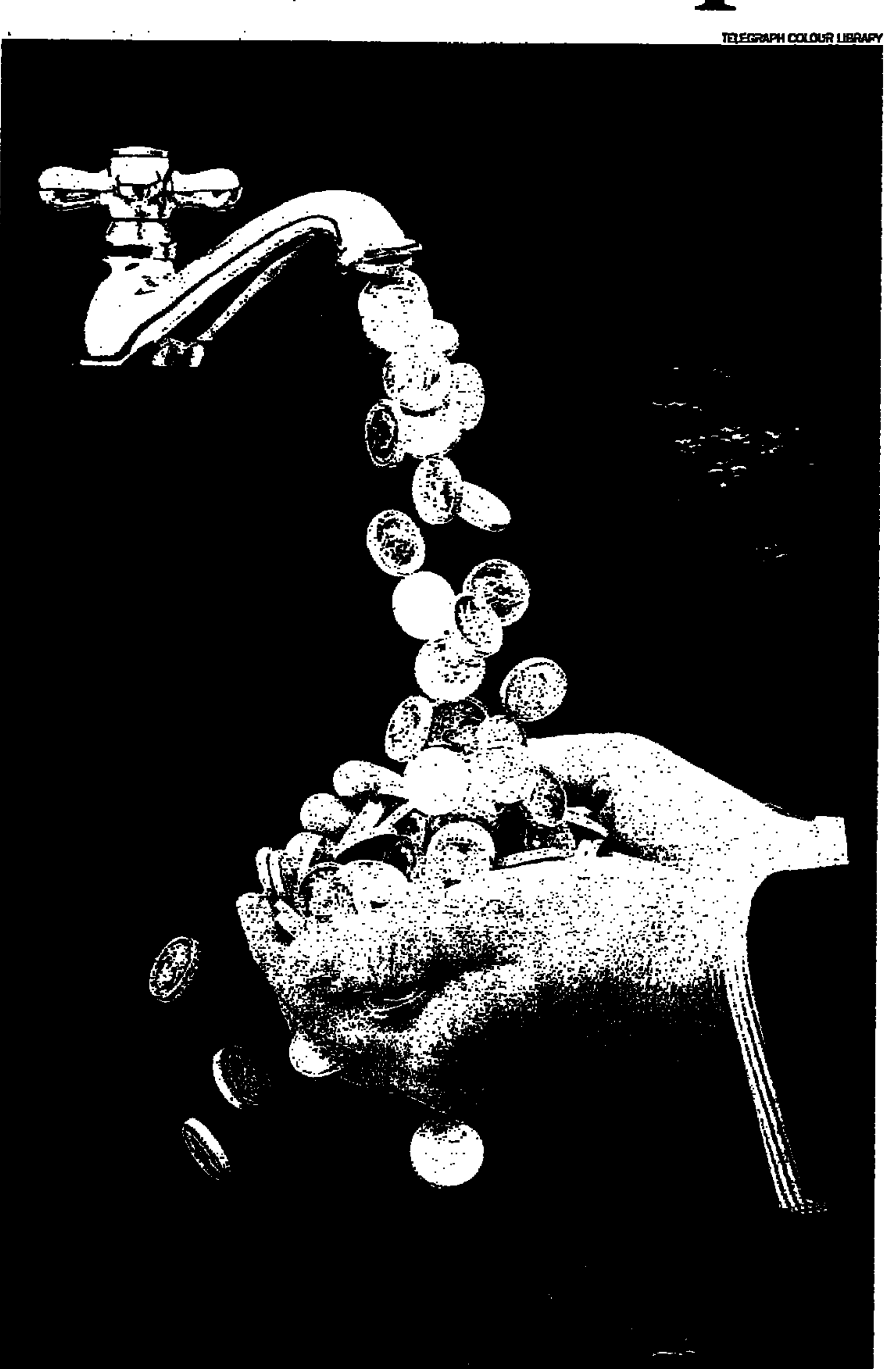


An artist's impression of the completed Three Gorges Dam in 2009. Some officials believe it is just too big

Do you need a Pep?



Does financial skill elude you? Easy Money is here to help. Every week, Personal Finance Editor **Anne Ashworth** shows how to make your money work for you. Today: Peps and Tessas made simple; how, by stopping smoking now, a 30-year-old could save £346,000 by the age of 60; and why, in the run-up to the millennium, you must keep a paper record of all your finances



TELEGRAPH COLOUR LIBRARY

Money down the drain? If you cannot afford to lock up your money long-term, a Pep may not be for you

On a billboard near you, the curves and smiles of the Wonderbra girls have been replaced by figures of a different kind. Poster sites nationwide are carrying one predominant message — put money into a personal equity plan before it is too late.

These exhortations to buy while stocks last are causing consternation — people are bewildered by the variety offered in these long-term stock market savings. Product differentiation in the Pep market rivals the shampoo sector. There are about 1,500 separate Pep funds offered by more than 400 banks, building societies, insurance companies and City firms.

To add to the confusion, each of these funds claims to be the best, adding more shine and body to your lank and lifeless portfolio than any of its competitors. Amid this cacophony of claims, some facts are beyond dispute.

Here comes the science:

You have, at most, ten days to put money into a Pep before they are withdrawn from sale at midnight on April 5. Peps are the legacy of Lord Lawson of Blaby.

Tessas (tax exempt special savings accounts), John Major's plain and simple contribution to the promotion of thrift during his brief period at No 11, will also bow out at midnight on April 5.

Peps and Tessas will be supplanted by Isas (individual savings accounts), a new type of cash, plus shares, plus insurance, tax-free scheme devised by Gordon Brown and his erstwhile colleague Geoffrey Robinson, something of a specialist in the tax limitation arena.

A Pep is not strictly speaking an investment, but a tax-free wrapper. It can hold shares in one or several companies, or stakes in unit and investment trusts which themselves hold shares in a number of companies.

Sheltered within the Pep, these holdings escape tax. You can invest up to £6,000 in a general Pep, the most popular variety. The bestsellers contain unit and investment trusts, so spreading the risk. You can also put a further £3,000 in a single company Pep which holds the shares of just one company, much more of a gamble.

Sums invested in Peps before the deadline will be unaffected by the changeover, remaining invested for as long as you choose in whichever stock market scheme you have selected. If the fund fails to prosper, you can transfer the accumulated sum to another Pep company with more oomph.

The tax breaks will also continue, although Mr Brown has sneakily sliced the value of the tax relief. But no further money can be added to your stash after April 6.

More lenient rules will apply to the Tessa. While no new accounts may be opened after the deadline, further contributions to existing Tessas will be permitted. You can deposit money in your account until the end of its five-year term, provided you stay within the £9,000 limit. You may then transfer the capital (but not the interest) into an Isa.

The imminent withdrawal of Peps and Tessas is of itself no reason to join the last-minute rush.

■ The minimum investment in most Pep funds is £1,000. If you cannot afford to lock your money up for at least five years, leave it in a building society. If tempted to take out a loan to buy a Pep, think again. Unless you have the flair of a George Soros, any growth in the value of the Pep will not equal the interest charged on the borrowings.

■ Peps are not for the nervy who find the fluctuations of the stock market unsettling. There is no pledge that any Pep will make your fortune. In a chart compiled by Chase de Vere, an independent financial adviser specialising in Peps, the best performing fund over a five-year period to December 31 1998 was Gartmore European Growth, which turned £1,000 into £3,130.86. Equitable Life's Smaller Companies fund languished at the bottom of the league; a £1,000 lump sum invested would have grown to just £1,078.93.

> Peps are not for the nervy investor

■ Although some plans come with a guarantee, the small print of these will reveal that you will receive only a portion of any rise in the market.

■ Simply wishing to save tax is not a compelling reason to take out a Pep because the value of this exemption can be exaggerated. Peps escape income tax (to which most of us are liable) and capital gains tax (which most of us never pay). Avoiding income tax is an attractive proposition. But some of the saving is offset by the charges deducted from your investment to pay administration and sundry extras. Some Pep firms still deduct a charge of 5 per cent of your investment as soon as they receive your cheque, that is £300 from an investment of £6,000. There are further annual management charges to pay of around 1.5 per cent of the value of your investment.

■ If all this leaves you undeterred, do not make your choice of plan based on the performance figures supplied by Pep firms. Through the selective, but entirely legal, use of statistics, they are able to accentuate the positive. Thus a Pep with a record of some good years and some bad can appear to have outstripped its peers.

Fortunately the *Which?* principle has been applied to the assessment of Peps. Three firms — Allenbridge, BEST Investment and Chase de Vere — will supply lists of their best buys. If you buy through these organisations you can save up to 3 per cent of the initial charge. For novice investors, BEST is currently recommending funds from Fidelity, Gartmore and Perpetual.

Most Pep companies have arranged to take money up until midnight on April 5, but some are closing their doors on Thursday, April 1 before the Bank Holiday weekend.

You may now have concluded that, after all, you have more in common with a Tessa, the only option for those who want to start long-term saving but prefer to stay in the warm embrace of a building society. There is also no reason why you should not acquire both a Tessa and a Pep and have the best of both worlds.

But, here again, we are talking commitment. If you take any of the capital from the Tessa account during the five-year period, you will lose the right to tax-free interest. Banks and building societies are paying reasonably generous rates on these accounts, ranging from 5 to 6.95 per cent. Minimum deposits range from £10 to £9,000. The Yorkshire Building Society is paying 6.95 per cent on a minimum of £100. The various institutions have different closing dates for their accounts. Some ask that you open the account by Saturday, March 27 or by April 1.

● *CONTACTS: Times-Money www.times-money.co.uk; Allenbridge: 0800 3399999; BEST Investment: 0171-321 0100; Chase de Vere: 0800-985 9000; Yorkshire Building Society: 0845 6006061.*

NASTY HABITS

"A CIGARETTE," wrote Oscar Wilde, "is the perfect type of perfect pleasure. It is exquisite and it leaves one unsatisfied." Unfortunately, like so many other perfect pleasures in life, smoking is bad for you, not to mention prohibitively expensive.

Since the Budget, the price of a pack of 20 top-brand cigarettes, such as Marlboro or Camel, costs £3.82. So if the health warnings have not got to you already, maybe a few facts about the financial risks of smoking will help you to kick this nasty habit.

The standard pack-a-day addict spends £26.74 a week on cigarettes. That adds up to £1,390.48 a year. If you give up, after one year you could treat yourself to that Prada coat you have been hankering after or take a short holiday in the Caribbean.

Assuming that the price of cigarettes continues to rise at 5 per cent, you could save more than £34,100 over 20 years simply by putting the money under the mattress. That is enough, at current prices, to put down a deposit on a penthouse in Kensington or to splash out on a platinum and diamond necklace from Bulgari.

You could put your money to more prudent use, of course. According to NPI Global Care Pensions, a 20-year-old who invests his cigarette money in an environmentally aware personal pension plan with no tobacco investments can save £185,000 by the time he reaches 60 on the most conservative fund growth estimate of 6 per cent.

If you assume fund growth of 12 per cent, a 30-year-old can build a nest egg of £346,983 if he puts his cigarette money into a pension fund. Even if you give up smoking much later in life, for example at 50, you could save up to £25,000 by the time you reach 60, depending on the level of fund growth. You could use the money to help with the mortgage. A Halifax borrower with a £50,000 25-year loan fixed for five years at 5.55 per cent would repay £298.27 a month. Your saved cigarette money could take care of more than a third of the monthly bill.

Investing the money in the stock market is another potentially lucrative option. Again, assuming that the price of cigarettes rises by 5 per cent annually and without taking inflation into account, investing your cigarette money in the average UK unit trust could yield £39,000 over ten years, according to BEST Investment, which bases its calculation on fund performance of the past ten years as a guide.

If you invested the equivalent amount of money in the Jupiter Income Fund, one of the top performers of the past decade, you could have amassed more than £61,000. Feeling guilty yet?

Figures from ASH, an anti-smoking group, show that a high percentage of the 12.1 million Britons who smoke are the people least able to afford it. In 1996, 17 per cent of professional people smoked, against 38 per cent of unskilled manual workers. The young are also particularly bad offenders: 37.5 per cent of people aged between 20 to 34 regularly smoke.

The chances are that if you do choose to give up, not all the money you save will be available to channel into other investments. You will probably spend a fair amount on quitting aids: for a week's supply, inhalators cost about £19.95, gum costs £15 and a nasal spray costs £20.

Anti-smoking campaigners emphasise that unless you are highly addicted, smoking 40 a day or more, quitting aids are not essential. They suggest drinking lots of water, brushing your teeth often and chewing sugar-free gum. The full-blown symptoms of withdrawal are likened to flu, so expect to feel miserable for a few days. You can always console yourself with the thought of riches to be amassed in the future — and the fact that you are more likely to live long enough to enjoy them.

PAULA HAWKINS

● *CONTACTS: quitting helplines: England: 0800 002200, Scotland: 0800 848484, Northern Ireland: 01232 663281, Wales: 0345 697500; BEST Investment: 0990 112255; Cheltenham & Gloucester: 0800 333900; NPI: 0171-623 4200.*

NEXT WEEK: Should you cut up your credit card?

Put your finances on paper

APRIL Fool's Day may provide the first test of whether your bank, building society or insurance company has built up defences against the millennium bug. The Government gives warning that there is a danger of a mini-version of the bug affecting computers on April 1, for many businesses, the start of the financial year.

The announcement follows the news that a dozen of Britain's largest banks, building societies and insurance companies have not prepared their systems to meet the challenge of the millennium date change. In information technology jargon, they are not "Y2K compliant". The Financial Services Authority, the top City watchdog, is so concerned about the threat of a computer meltdown that it has threatened the laggards with closure. The authority will not identify the institutions.

This revelation no doubt sent a shiver down the spine of anyone with a bank account or other savings. Could the electronic crevices of financial institutions be hiding monsters more horrible than we have previously imagined?

Reverting to pen and paper may not fit in with the science-fiction image of 2000 but it is the best way to keep the millennium bug from plaguing your finances. To protect your money, turn yourself into Bob Cratchit with a handwritten ledger of money in and money out. Compile a detailed record of your bank accounts and other savings, insurance policies, pensions and other investments. But do not keep the data on your PC just in case the bug is lurking somewhere in the innards.



Paper chase: save all documentation

Mark Bolland of the financial advisers Chamberlain De Broe says: "The most important thing is to make sure your own information is bang up-to-date. Lots of people simply have no idea what pensions, savings, investments or insurances they have. If the information is lost and you have no records of your transactions yourself, you have had it."

Do not leave bank or building society statements on the kitchen table. Keep them safely with records of any debit and credit card transactions and make sure the figures match up. If there are any gaps in your records, ask the companies concerned for replacement documents.

However, no matter how chilling the prospects of being hit by the bug, banks are still the best place to keep your cash. Gwynneth Flower, managing director of Action 2000, the Government's official bug-buster, says: "I certainly don't think people should withdraw all their money and keep it under the mattress. Otherwise all the felons in Christendom will have a wonderful millennium party."

SUSAN EMMETT

Getting to grips with a smart hand

Artificial hands have not changed much in the past 30 years. But a new prosthesis, called the Oxford Intelligent Hand, has the power to grasp objects in a far more human manner. Anjana Ahuja reports

Shaking hands with Dr Peter Kyberd is an alarming experience. You have two choices — the regular flesh-and-blood hand whose feel is warm and familiar, or the cold grasp of a steel prosthetic, which is strapped to his forearm and rises above his own hand like an eerie shadow.

The Oxford Intelligent Hand may not look as inviting as the real thing but this amazing steel creation, with two fingers and a thumb, is one of the most advanced prostheses in the world. Unlike more primitive versions whose digits simply open and close like a bird's beak, Dr Kyberd's contraption can grasp objects in a much more human manner. It will automatically go into the most appropriate grip. For example, if an object is near the palm, the digits will close around it in a "power grip". Moreover, although it looks as though it would crush the bones of anyone foolish enough to proffer a hand, the steel handshake is as light as a child's.

Dr Kyberd, from Oxford Orthopaedic Engineering Centre, will talk about his research in *From Captain Hook to Robocop*, the second lecture in the Scientists for the New Century series at The Royal Institution next Wednesday evening. Brandishing a prosthesis that looks like the severed hand of a shop mannequin, he says that artificial hands have not developed much in the past three decades. "Prostheses like this only open and close, and the motion is not anthropomorphic," Dr Kyberd says.

As a result, he says, it can perform only the most basic actions. "Even though it is the most commonly used artificial hand in the country, it isn't actually used by that many people, although it may be more to do with provision than practicality."

Surprisingly, it is common for people who lose a hand to shun a prosthetic altogether, even a purely cosmetic one. Of an estimated 85,000 people across Europe who have lost part of an upper limb, only 5 per cent use a prosthetic. Dr Kyberd says: "Not one of the people I have had in my laboratory regards themselves as disabled. Losing a hand seems to be viewed more as an inconvenience, which is perhaps a tribute to how wonderfully adaptable the human body is.

"The point is, the way we use our hands is subconscious. We don't have to think about it. So, when you build an artificial hand, you shouldn't be trying to make it like a robot or a tool. It should be as easy to wear as a pair of spectacles. You don't have to think about them while you are wearing them. Asking people to wear basic prostheses is like asking people with slight myopia to walk around with a camera on their head. They wouldn't bother."

The main requirements of a false hand is that it is light (the forearm must bear the load of the prosthesis) and easy to use. It must also be reliable. The Oxford Intelligent Hand, which builds on Dr Kyberd's doctoral project at Southampton University and which will form part of the Tompaw (Totally Modular Prosthetic Arm with high Workability) collaboration with researchers in Sweden and Edinburgh, weighs in at a relatively low half kilogram.

> It would be great to offer people something that works so well

It can be operated by tensing two muscles in the forearm. Two electrodes — one for each muscle — read the tiny electrical signals, which are amplified and fed into a series of circuits. Switches in these circuits are automatically triggered, prompting the fingers to curl up.

It can pick things up using either two or three digits and it can perform a "side prehension" grip, a fist with the thumb on top (this is how we hold trays, for example). One particularly impressive feature is that each fingertip contains a tiny microphone that detects the vibrations caused by a slipping object. If vibrations are picked up, the fingers close in tighter. Importantly, the level of force is moderated delicately, so it is possible for the hand to pick up an egg without breaking it (a notoriously difficult task for an artificial hand). The microphones automatically screen out vibrations caused by conversation (the litmus test, Dr Kyberd says, was playing *Test Match Special* at it full blast) and by blows to the hand.

Relaxing the muscles again causes the prosthetic to adopt the neutral curl of a limp hand. The hand must be capable of operating over a 12-hour period, so Dr Kyberd has introduced a "stalling" mechanism that causes the motor to cut out when not in use.

The next task will be to introduce wrist and elbow rotation — this will involve the collaborators in Sweden. Aesthetics will also be important. Mr David Gow, at Princess Margaret Rose Orthopaedic Hospital in Edinburgh, will design gloves to cover the hand. An open drawer in Dr Kyberd's laboratory is full of PVC and silicone gloves. The PVC ones look unrealistically smooth and pink, not unlike flesh-pink washing-up gloves, but those made from silicone can be cast from real hands and look far more convincing. All the features are there — wrinkles, impressions of veins in the wrist, and subtle colour differences of the nails. And unlike PVC, which is prone to discoloration, silicone gloves do not pick up dirt.

The culmination of the Tompaw project, funded by the European Union, will come next year when the first patients are fitted with the Oxford Intelligent Hand. "We're not expecting everyone to want one, but it would be marvellous to offer people something that works really well," says Dr Kyberd.



Dr Peter Kyberd with the Oxford Intelligent Hand. Each fingertip contains a tiny microphone which detects the vibrations caused by a slipping object

Fears over smallpox caches

SCIENCE BRIEFING
Nigel Hawkes

SMALLPOX was eradicated in 1978 and now, supposedly, only two samples survive, kept in tightly guarded laboratories at the Centres for Disease Control in Atlanta, Georgia, and at a Russian laboratory known as VECTOR in Koltsovo, Siberia. If the World Health Organisation has its way, they will be destroyed in June.

But as the deadline approaches, some people are having doubts. Fuelled by a growing suspicion that secret caches of the virus probably exist elsewhere in military hands, they argue that there is a danger these might be used as a biological weapon in the future. To provide defence against such an eventuality, they say, the existing stocks should be kept alive as a source of vaccines and antiviral drugs. Virtually everybody on Earth is now susceptible to the disease because the effects of vaccination, which ended in the 1980s, have worn off.

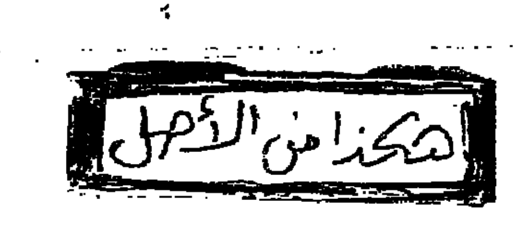
The National Academy of Sciences, asked by the US Administration to convene a panel on the subject, says in a report that retaining the live virus could be essential for "the identification and development of antiviral agents for use in anticipation of a large outbreak of smallpox".

Dr Alan Zelicoff, of Sandia National Laboratory in New Mexico, says that throwing away the virus would be irrational. His view that there are secret caches is widely believed, even by some of those who favour the destruction of the official stocks.

"I think there is more in Russia than in the one centre," says Dr Donald Henderson, of Johns Hopkins University. "There is no question about that."

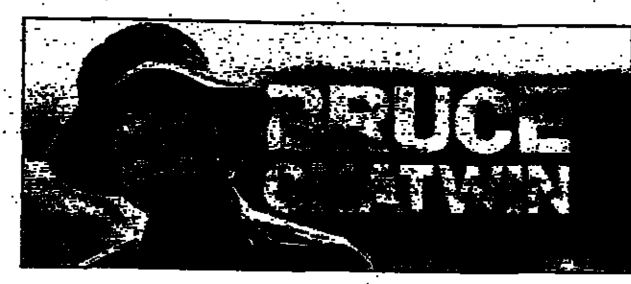
Dr Frank Fenner, who chaired the commission which certified that smallpox had been eradicated, told *The Washington Post*: "I think the likelihood that the Russians destroyed everything except what they had in the WHO laboratory is very small." But he and Dr Henderson favour destruction.

The change of tone in the US is largely the result of the testimony of a former official at VECTOR, the laboratory in which the Soviet biological weapons programme was conducted. Ken Alibeck has provided details of the programme and says he is convinced that it has not been completely dismantled.



BRUCE CHATWIN: A STORYTELLER'S LIFE

A bit of live bait for Maugham



In the second extract from his biography **Nicholas Shakespeare** reveals how Chatwin was used to lure rich collectors of both sexes



KARSH / J. KASMIN/CAMERA PRESS

Wheeler dealing: in 1962 Bruce was sent to meet Somerset Maugham, above; he later recalled "his awful old fingers going through my hair". Right, Bruce in 1979

Just after 9.30pm on October 15, 1958, Sotheby's new chairman, Peter Wilson, raised his gavel to auction seven Impressionist masterpieces. For the first time TV cameras were lined up. The 1,400 ticket-holders included Margot Fonteyn, Kirk Douglas and Somerset Maugham.

Within five minutes he had sold three paintings. The sixth lot was Cézanne's *Garçon au Gilet Rouge*; bidding stopped at £220,000, double the sum ever paid for a modern picture. It was not only a world record, but by such a margin that for years Impressionist paintings went nowhere else for auction. For Bruce it was a good time to be joining the firm.

"Sotheby's was the main stimulus of Bruce's life," says David Nash, who worked with him in the Impressionist department. Bruce learnt how to look at an object and describe it compactly. Sponsored by Sotheby's, he travelled to the cultures that had produced these objects and met a network of aesthetically minded, rich, inquiring young people.

Yet, after three years, loathing set in. "I suddenly had a horror of the so-called art world," he wrote to a friend. "Though I went on to be a director of Sotheby's, everything about the firm filled me with claustrophobia and disgust."

Bruce joined as a numbering porter in the Works of Art department at £8 a week. Brian Sewell that year began at Christie's: "It is easy to forget how pure Bruce was then. There was a frankness and honesty about him. He would have made a very good priest."

Bruce moved between Antiquities and Modern Pictures as a junior cataloguer. The former, which answered directly to Wilson, was in a tiny room in the basement and consisted of Bruce, a secretary and an outside adviser who came in once or twice a week. This was Wilson's friend and business partner, John Hewett.

Bruce's connoisseurship developed swiftly. Hewett said: "If you put ten things on a table, he'd pick out the best one. He had a 'good eye'." Those lucky enough to have the eye traded on it. Bruce wrote: "Sotheby's directors assumed people like myself had private incomes to supplement our wretched salaries. What was I to do? Exist on air? I earned a bit extra by trafficking in antiquities ... Almost everyone in the art business was at it." His growing confidence was linked to a new responsibility for Impressionist sales. "Imps" was glamorous. He dealt with smart visitors daily: Gregory Peck, Alain Delon, David Niven, Elizabeth Taylor.

Bruce admired Wilson's savoir faire and dedication. He liked to imitate the chairman, whom he called "The Beast", holding an auction. He adopted the same languid mannerisms, intonations and elaborate reaction to works of art.

Wilson was tall and slightly portly. He sold advertising space in the *Connoisseur* before joining Sotheby's in 1936 as a porter in the Furniture department. Thereafter Sotheby's consumed his life, apart from a spell during the war as an intelligence officer. His Byzantine cast of mind was useful in the art world, which thrived on cell-like cliques.

He built up the firm through flair, enthusiasm and ruthlessness. He stopped at nothing to obtain a work of art. John Mallet says: "I remember cataloguing the Romanesque head of a prophet. PCW was the seller. It was attributed to a specific area of France. 'How do we know?' I asked. 'The chairman knocked it off a ruined abbey there', said Wilson's office."

Wilson trained his young men to nourish their contacts. Increasingly, Bruce became his representative. With Wilson's arm on his shoulder the schoolboy was tipped into what Ted Lucie-Smith called "a world of Baroque monsters". Bruce soon tired of social games. It was one reason he gave for leaving Sotheby's: "I can't face being chased around one more beach umbrella by one more lady in palazzo pyjamas."

Not only women chased him: collectors in the main were homosexual. In most cases Bruce was an innocent fêted by rich men. But on at least one occasion he succumbed. In July 1963 he went to Glenveagh Castle in Donegal. The owner, Henry McIlhenny, had approached Sotheby's to have Glenveagh's contents appraised for insurance. Wilson selected Bruce for the task. Another guest was James Lord, who kept a diary: "I know they went to bed together. Henry did the seducing. He was boastful about it to me. He called him 'Bruceykins'."

Brian Sewell identified with Bruce's predicament. "He told me of a hugely embarrassing night in a castle in Ireland. There is a certain outrage in one's reaction. If there is one thing a young homosexual resents, it's homosexuality being taken for granted as being in the gift of someone else. Bruce hadn't anyway come to terms with his homosexual drive. The last thing he'd want is to have to contend with an exploitation of that homosexuality for Sotheby's advantage."

This is just what Wilson called upon him to do in spring 1962. Having catalogued the Somerset Maugham sale, Bruce was satisfied that he had completed his duties. Shortly before the sale, however, the old man changed his mind. "Maugham had been to the dentist," recalls Kenelm Digby-Jones. "He had toothache, he was old, he said he wouldn't sell. PCW nearly had a fit. Then he had this brilliant idea of wheeling in Bruce."

His hair freshly washed (on Wilson's instructions), Bruce went to meet Maugham at the Dorchester. "He recognised Bruce as a bit of live bait: exactly what he was. It was very cynically done." Bruce gave more details to Maugham's grandson, Jonathan Hope. As he entered the room Maugham's companion said: "He wants you to sit next to him." Bruce did so, whereupon Maugham put out a hand. "His awful old fingers going through my hair!" he told Hope. Bruce wanted Hope to believe that, because he had let Maugham ruffle his hair, he had secured the collection for Sotheby's. But that was only part of it. "He wanted to emphasise how grotesque was the atmosphere of corruption. He implied he had had to do this in other instances, charm people to get money out of them. He became quite hysterical at the recollection, bouncing in his chair, saying 'I hated it, I hated it!'"

Wilson had opened the door to Bruce's sensuous delight in objects, but how much further their own relationship went is harder to know. Sewell says: "I'm convinced he was not PCW's lover. PCW wanted Bruce body and soul and it made it easier for him if Bruce pretended, so it didn't look a footling, idiotic pursuit. It was a kindly act on Bruce's part."

After the Maugham sale Bruce began to rebel against "The Beast's" exploitation. In April 1966 Bruce became one of Sotheby's eight second-tier partners. He was seen as Wilson's heir. "None of us doubted that he would be at the head of Sotheby's in due course," said Sewell. Then, in the summer of 1966, he resigned. To the surprise of the board, he announced his intention, aged 26, to study archaeology at Edinburgh.

● *Extracted from* Bruce Chatwin *by Nicholas Shakespeare, to be published by The Harvill Press on April 1 for £20.* Times *readers can buy it for £16 by calling* The Times *Bookshop, 0990-134459. Copyright Nicholas Shakespeare 1999*

TOMORROW

'It was very much my first love. There was nobody like Bruce. He was gorgeous and he knew it' — Jasper Conran.

OK, so who's had sex?

Joanna Coles

NEW YORK LIFE

Saturday: "Now, has anyone had sex since their babies were born?" demands Sigrid, our terrifying birthing instructor. We are back again on the 11th floor of St Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital, for the final session of our Intensive Lamaze Birthing Class "intended for Manhattan couples with impossible schedules". Today is our reunion. It is a chance to compare our offspring, but more importantly to "swap birthing experiences and offer each other support".

"Well, have you? Don't be shy," booms Sigrid. A silence invades the room; even the babies, whom she has insisted we exhibit side by side on a padded white sheet, seem to sense our unease and cease their chuntering. We all look down, avoiding her intense, pale stare.

"Come ON," she cries.

Finally, someone speaks. "Er no, not yet," says Susan, a lawyer, whose husband Neta, an Israeli computer programmer, promptly nudges her crossly.

"See," hisses Melissa to her husband Barry, "I'm not the only one who doesn't want to."

"A lot of people say it's very painful, like the first time all over again," adds Susan doubtfully.

"Foam and condoms. FOAM AND CONDOMS," shouts Sigrid, shaking her perm. "Didn't I give you all my leaflet on sex?" She disappears behind her easel promising Creative Pain Management, and re-emerges brandishing a thicket of leaflets called *Sex After the Baby Comes*.

"Pass them round," she instructs Barry. "Now remember, with a baby you can't have passionate sex any more. You have to make a date and say 'Let's do it!' Try and take a bath together eh?" She looks around at our small exhausted group, wagging her finger at our apparent uninterest. "You gotta take care of your sexuality."

"I'm finding the whole thing pretty stressful," says Susan, bravely breaking another silence. "My obstetrician says I should go on the Pill, but my paediatrician says I shouldn't because I'm still breastfeeding. I guess I'm sticking with the paediatrician's advice for now." Chewing his bottom lip, Neta slumps slightly in his chair and stares at the leaflet. I follow his eyeline as he alights on the fourth paragraph: "American women may be instructed by their obstetricians not to make love for six weeks. French women may be told *pas de rapports* for only three weeks! And yet there is no difference in their reproductive equipment."

"Time for your birthing stories," says Sigrid, clapping us to attention. The two couples unable to make the reunion have e-mailed their stories which she reads out, before commanding Melissa to begin her account. Melissa was due last in our group but delivered first, three weeks early.

"It was 1.30am and I said to Barry 'Hey I think my water broke' and he's like 'Yeah, right'. But it had and then I had pains by the time we got to the hospital, they were trying to fill out forms and I was like, 'This baby's coming out' and 45 minutes later she was there."

"Not easy," nods Sigrid. "It whips through your body, without time to adjust. But preferable to having to work for hours at it."

"Yeah, I wouldn't have the patience for that," says Barry.

"I didn't like breastfeeding at first," says Susan, after recounting her trauma-free labour.

"Did you go on a breastfeeding course?" demands Sigrid.

"No, but Neta helped me."

"I was experienced," shrugs Neta modestly. "In Israel I worked in a zoo with mammals, I told her how to breastfeed. How to get the latch-on."

"You should have gone on a course," scolds Sigrid, palming a fistful of banana chips. "Listen to me, I'm a lactation consultant and an advocate for the breast. They've just discovered the hormones in the breast milk make for an easier transition to adolescence."

Neta produces pretzels and a bottle of champagne and we toast our infants before the others load their charges into their bulky navy Peg Peregos, the Prada of prams and Manhattan's baby chariot de jour. Peter tries to load Thomas surreptitiously into our ugly nine-year-old Mothercare stroller, a hand-me-down from another correspondent. It is a jalopy of infant transportation built around an exposed lattice of steel tubing, a bit like the Pompidou Centre.

"We must buy a new pram," I mutter as we squeak off down the corridor, the front left wheel flapping like a disobedient shopping trolley.

"But it's a vintage," says Peter. "It has character."

At the lift we are joined by a nurse who takes in our accents and the victory of function over style.

"Hmm," she observes. "I've never seen one of those before. I take it that's British, too."

Sunday: "Maybe it's having a baby that's heightening our sense of danger," sighs Peter, as he hunches over the papers, worrying over yet another violent aspect of living in New York. At the same time that their officers fired 41 bullets at Amadou Diallo, an unarmed black man standing innocently outside his apartment (killing him with 19 of them) the NYPD have chosen to announce that they will go ahead with a controversial plan to equip all their officers with soft-nosed bullets by April.

They assure us that these will be safer than the traditional hard-nosed bullets, which are more likely to ricochet or pass straight through the body of a suspect, going on to hit innocent bystanders. The snag is that the new soft-nosed bullets flatten on impact, causing much greater injuries and chances of fatality in those they hit.

"It's a tricky trade-off," ponders Peter. "What would you prefer? The greater chance of being hit by a less harmful bullet, or the smaller chance of being struck by a more damaging one?"

The wrong Italian, Mr Blair

David Hine says Prodi would be yet another EU political fix

Tony Blair's taunt to the Conservatives in the House of Commons last week — that William Hague and Jacques Santer are two of a kind and miserable compromise candidates — may yet come home to haunt him if he fails to make the right choice for President of the European Commission at the Berlin summit in the next few days. Yet among the easy metaphors about the cleansing of stables and the flexing of parliamentary muscles, there has been remarkably little discussion of the qualifications required for the job.

Names are floated, and the accolades are generally effusive. Romano is our man, we are told. Carlos has a good track record. Yes, Antonio or better still Wim would do — a pity they are not available. But the real business goes on in back-channel talks hurriedly convened between Prime Ministers' offices and foreign ministries. Amid all the speculation, the one thing that cannot be voiced is a frank discussion of qualifications — at least not by those who will broker the deal. Most of the candidates do not declare themselves, and cannot, without unnecessary offence being given, be ruled out. Someone will have to get the job, and no one wants to find they have expressed doubts about the suitability of one who may be a potential winner.

What the citizens of Europe make of it all is less clear. Do they want a President they can identify with? And if so, what exactly do they want to identify with? The low-key virtues of administrative competence — an end to cronyism, clear lines of accountability, transparency in decision-making? Or do they want strong policy leadership: a President who will lead his team from the front, rally the European Parliament behind him, impose some order on its normal mode of policy disarray (perhaps even, in a nice reversal of roles, on its own ethical standards), and communicate directly with European voters.

The superficial attraction of a strong personality is that he would impose leadership on his own Commission, a factor that was shown to be so lamentably absent by last week's scathing attack on Mr Santer's performance. He might even sack a future Edith Cresson before scandal and collective guilt engulfed the entire Commission.

Yet to have that sort of political authority poses all sorts of dangers for institutions so weakly rooted in public trust. A strengthened European Parliament is simply not going to be a disciplined one, delivering sustained support to a high-profile President. It lacks real majorities even when it has arithmetical ones. If it had the power to sack commissioners, it could use it to pick off its political enemies. There will always be plenty of those as long as the Commission remains a rainbow of national nominees of widely differing political backgrounds.

What the Commission needs is competence, a restoration of public-service values and administrative morale, and self-imposed discipline, rather than politically imposed leadership. How far that conclusion has been fed into the mixed motives of those who will take the decision for us is unclear. A heavyweight Prime Minister is said to be needed. Preferably a Southern European — presumably because he is going to have to sell some painful cuts in transfer payments as enlargement of the European Union approaches. There is much talk of the need for a good communicator too: a man of the political middle with wide appeal.

All this is said to point to Romano Prodi, Mr Blair's erstwhile ally in the "Democratic International" that the Prime Minister, Bill Clinton, and Signor Prodi formed last year — just before Signor Prodi was ousted in a coalition coup by the leader of Italy's real social democrats, Massimo D'Alema.

Signor Prodi certainly has his merits. But most Europeans know little of what Italians have been able to test first-hand. And the same applies to all the other candidates. The spotlight will fall very selectively. Heads of government who need to fix a deal that meets short-term considerations have no incentive to turn up its power.

Prodi's ability to manage a team is far from certain

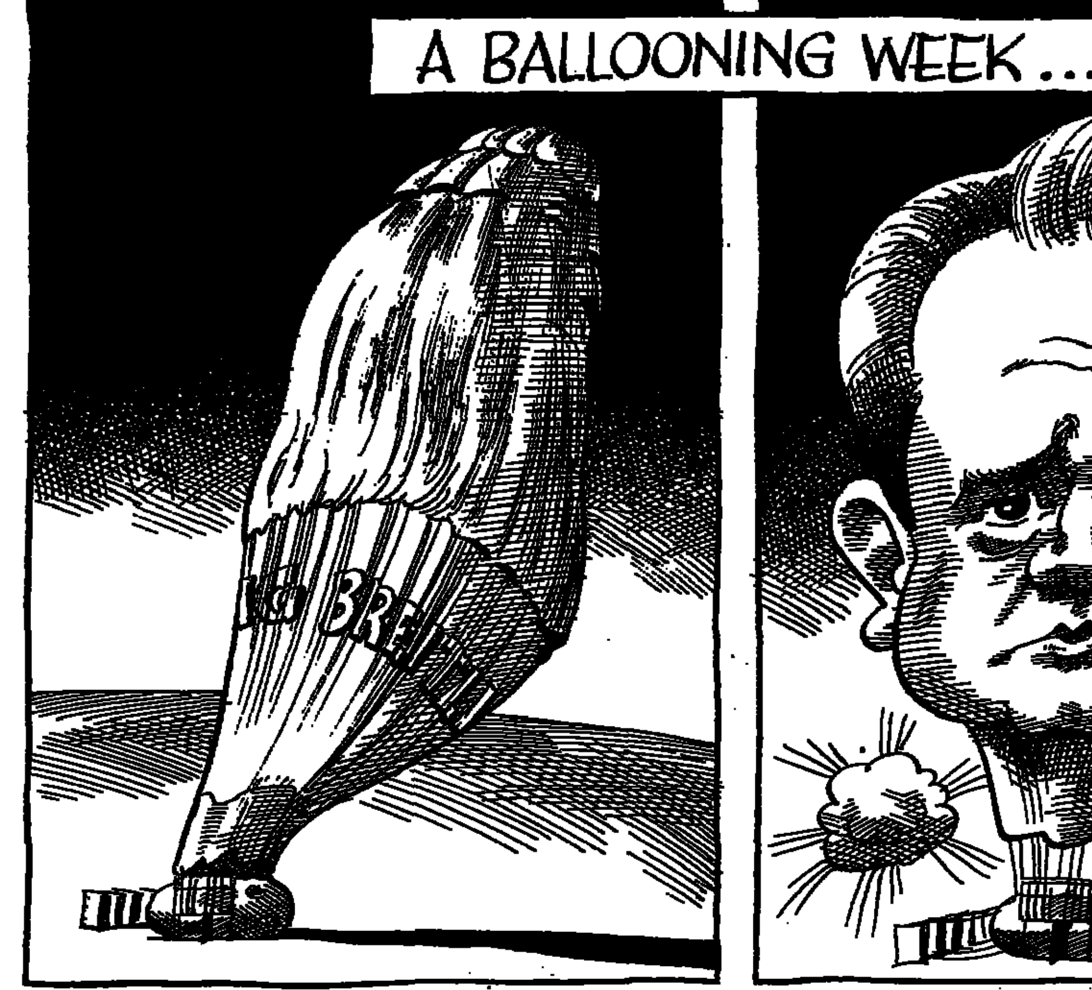
In Signor Prodi's case, for example, Signor D'Alema's coup has tried the former Prime Minister's patience with efforts to build a more united Italian Left. Signor Prodi has since done his best to make life difficult for his successor, forming a new group, the Democrats, to challenge Signor D'Alema in the European elections this June. The affair has cast much doubt over Signor Prodi's capacity to manage a team and a parliamentary majority. Like Mr Blair, he has built his appeal on transcending conventional political boundaries. But unlike Mr Blair, his political base was always uncertain, at times positively evanescent. It is difficult to believe it would carry much weight at the European level.

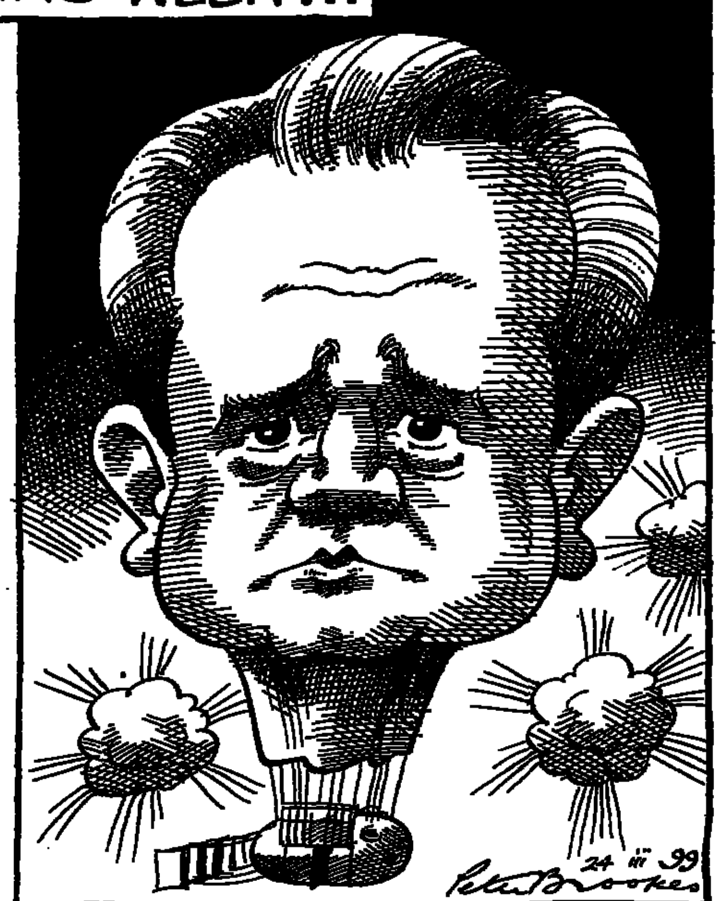
When the history of Italy's remarkable reform process in the 1990s is written, the real accolade may go to Giuliano Amato — currently Signor D'Alema's Minister for Institutional Reform. As the first reforming Prime Minister of the decade, it was Signor Amato who took the really tough decisions on budgetary reform and privatisation. He established a pattern that others, Signor Prodi included, have had an easier time emulating. Signor Amato faced a credibility crisis in Italian institutions much like that facing Brussels and steered Italy through with great skill.

If Signor Prodi becomes Commission President, it may have more to do with superficial political convenience — as it did in Jacques Santer's case — than because it is self-evidently what is needed.

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The author is Fellow in Politics, Christ Church, Oxford.





The real catastrophe

No amount of Nato bombing will make Milosevic see sense in Kosovo

Simon Jenkins

Why Kosovo? Why, of all the current civil wars and humanitarian horrors, is it Kosovo that now summons British troops to the colours? Or put it another way, why does a bloodstained shroud only have to wave over a Balkan village for otherwise intelligent people to take leave of their senses?

Yesterday the West tossed another gauntlet before the Yugoslav leader, Slobodan Milosevic. All previous ultimatums have been bluffs, and he has called them. In response to a month of Nato sabre-rattling, he has unleashed on Kosovo a pre-emptive scorched-earth campaign of medieval brutality. Now squadrons of bombers are waiting to pulverise his country, and 10,000 Nato troops stand ready to invade from Macedonia. Yet a BBC interviewer yesterday could gasp "How can Milosevic be so stupid?" A wise general never asks that question of his enemy, only of his friends.

In the early 1960s, Americans considered it unthinkable that a modern President such as John Kennedy could entangle the United States in a third land war in the Far East within 20 years. It was simply beyond imagining that, in a nuclear age, American boys would ever again die fighting in distant jungles. The world was too safe and Kennedy too shrewd and too liberal to make such a mistake. Besides, America was omnipotent. The orientals would be no match for the rolling thunder of the world's mightiest air force.

The historian Barbara Tuchman famously addressed the puzzle of Vietnam and concluded that, in the matter of war, little had changed since the fall of Troy. In *The March of Folly*, she related how each crisis was confounded by vain and hesitant leaders, by fears of retreat, by deafness to unpalatable advice and by a constant belief "that there was no choice". Kennedy had to take America into Vietnam to prove he was tough on communism, and Lyndon Johnson to prove that "I am not going to lose it". After half a million dead, it was lost. Nothing was gained, and it appears nothing was learnt.

I cannot find a single strategist to give me a level-headed outline of Britain's war aims in Yugoslavia. Everything said by Tony Blair and others in the Commons yesterday amounted to fine words and posturing: "Punish Milosevic . . . teach him a lesson . . . send a message . . . credibility of Nato at stake". So far, a year of intervention has been a disaster for those whom it was meant to benefit. A minority of Kosovan militants have been encouraged to believe that Nato troops will help them to win their freedom from the Serbs. They have committed atrocities, and provoked counter-atrocities from the Serbs. They have provoked a powerful and ruthless Government to repress areas of the country which it had previously ruled undemocratically but not murderously.

The objective set out by Mr Blair yesterday appears to be to bomb the Serbs into granting partial autonomy to Kosovo. It is scarcely credible that a serious person can believe this will be done by bombs — least of all after the Iraqi experience — and Mr Blair was unable to say how. The action seems certain both to kill more civilians and to provoke bloody retaliation against the Kosovans which Nato is powerless to prevent. What kind of humanitarianism is that?

The policy appears to be rooted in a belief that President Milosevic was "made to see sense by bombing" in Bosnia. As General Sir Michael Rose, the former commander in Bosnia, angrily repeated yesterday, this is just not true. The real prelude to the 1995 ceasefire was the Serbs losing a land war with the Croatians in southern Bosnia and fighting to a stalemate round Sarajevo. Mr Milosevic had already achieved his strategic goal of de facto partition. If bombing "brought him to his senses" then, why has the threat of more severe bombing not done so now?

Bombing is irrelevant. The issue in all territorial disputes is the military balance on the ground. In Kosovo that balance is now overwhelmingly Serbian. Nato spin is that bombing "will help Mr Milosevic to retreat" and that "he cannot possibly win". I am sure the Wehrmacht thought the same in Yugoslavia in 1940, to its cost. Last year the British Government sent 3,000 troops as part of the 10,000 Nato force in Macedonia. They were to help to get Western monitors out of Kosovo in the event of danger. Then they were to go in and "keep the peace" at the invitation of both sides. Now, according to one of their commanders, they are to "separate the combatants and disarm them", a feat that for thirty years has defied the British Army in Northern Ireland. Next week, if Mr Blair is not cruelly deceiving the Kosovans, the objective may have to be to confront 40,000 Serb troops in open battle.

This is not so much mission creep as mission stampede. It is madness posing as morality. But if it happens, it does give point to William Hague's question yesterday: why did Nato not act sooner before it allowed Mr Milosevic to deploy his full army on his southern front facing Nato? If British troops are to die in the cause of Kosovan autonomy, this delay will seem criminally negligent.

The frantic hope of the interveners must be that Mr Milosevic might, yet again, offer them some fig-leaf for their retreat. He has virtually invited a bombing raid, which may make Nato feel better for a while, but what is surely inconceivable is that the Serb leader will suddenly withdraw what is one of Central Europe's biggest armies from defending what Serbs regard as their territory. He may bluff and bluster yet again. Yet as the Tories indicated, and most Labour MPs believe, there is still not the will among any Nato country to invade any part of Yugoslavia and confront Mr Milosevic's army on the ground.

Even suppose, just suppose, a miracle occurs. Suppose Mr Milosevic does back away, then what? The objective as stated by Mr Blair is for Serb and Albanian Kosovans to live in peace with each other in an autonomous, democratic province of Yugoslavia. The implicit model is Bosnia. Yet for almost four years Bosnia has been a UN protectorate under a High Representative, and it is likely to stay that way for the foreseeable future. The country is militarily dependent on Nato and financially dependent on aid, with one of the world's most subsidised populations, costing the rest of us more than $1,000 per head a year.

The attempt to make Bosnia a democracy is described this week in a devastating analysis by David Chandler, *Bosnia; Faking Democracy after Dayton* (Pluto). It is a farce. The country is ruled by an army of some 50,000 foreign soldiers and UN staff, who run or regulate its executive, its bank, its police force, its aid distribution and its media, holding periodic "elections" that are no more than tribal opinion polls. They are upholding a temporary peace and a vast edifice of international job-creation. They will never leave. As Chandler points out, "the one solution that has not been advocated by the international community . . . is that of letting the Bosnian people begin to work out their own way forward".

The desperate irony of the present crisis is that the least worst outcome for the Kosovans is to become such a UN colony. To achieve it they will have to endure enough bloodshed to induce Nato leaders to match threats with deeds, to invade and somehow drive Serb forces off Kosovan territory. The suffering will be horrific and the result for Kosovo will be not autonomy but merely freedom from the Serbs.

The fact is, we should have left Kosovo's separatists to fight their own battles, as we normally leave separatists round the world. We should have offered such help as charity can supply. But charity no longer wins headlines. Only bombs do that. When the blood flows, we yearn to meddle. When the meddling is mixed with machismo, it gets out of hand. It has now brought Nato possibly and Kosovo certainly to a catastrophe. Of course the fault lies with the monstrous Milosevic, but not all the fault.

comment@the-times.co.uk

DIARY

Jilted lady

FAMILY ghosts haunt Inverary Castle, the pre-scandal home of Margaret Duchess of Argyll. When the late duke flung his wife over the drawbridge before their testing "Polaroid and pearl necklace" divorce in 1963, he also ejected an 8ft by 5ft oil (detail below) of the duchess by Sir James Gunn.

Now the portrait, felicitously benefiting from recent publicity, has been spurned by the 12th Duke. He was offered it by Philip Mould, the dealer specialising in British portraits who was selling on behalf of Nicky Armstrong, the duchess's closest chum in later years.

The latest coverage has pushed its value to £48,000, a snip for the duke. "There is still a lot of bitterness at Inverary," Armstrong suggests. "The duke said, diplomatically, that there was nothing he wanted to displace from the castle walls to make way for it."



GENERAL PINOCHET's reputation extends to his family. His nephew Hernan is doing one of those "how to be a journalist" courses here. For homework, he doorstepped his uncle: but the iron general refused to squawk.

■ A CHIEF executive could be appointed to run the House of Commons if an official report is implemented. The Serjeant at Arms has recommended that a Sir John Harvey-Jones-type troubleshooter be appointed to sweep away archaic practices. Michael Braithwaite is reporting to the Commons Commission shortly. "Departments just don't talk," I am told. "We need someone to slap wrists."

Officially, the Serjeant says: "We have been sounded out, but will not comment until the report lands."

RECESSION news: while up at Cambridge, Eddie George could not write an essay on growth and dynamics. The Governor of the Bank of England tells me not to worry: "I am still working on it."

■ AT LEAST he can make trains run on time. Arriving at Darlington station on Saturday lunchtime, Tony Blair took his security monkeys for tea after finding he had to wait 15 minutes for his late-running train south. After he finally clambered abroad, the train sailed along, stopping only briefly at stations as GNER staff uttered ever more profuse apologies. When they eventually pulled into Stevenage — the nearest stop for Chequers — it was just 30 seconds late.



■ A "CELEBRITY terrorist" who spoke out against the peace process has been threatened by the IRA. Dolours Price, wife of Stephen Rea, the star of the IRA thriller *The Crying Game*, went into the clink for a bombing campaign. But after attacking Sinn Fein's move towards peace (sorry?), Price says she has been harassed: "I've had people come to my door. I've been told I have no right to speak, even though I am a lifelong republican."

NOT one for the Diary Towers library, I fear: a picture-driven periodical called Just Legal *has been joined by a bedmate.* Nearly Legal. *One for m'learned friends?*

■ LORD PALUMBO flogging the family silver? Christie's is holding an auction of 20th-century art including a work by Arman called *Barracuda*. The "metal saws mounted on a metal support", valued at £12,000, is described as the "property of a family trust". A visitor saw it in a crate marked with Palumbo's name. I trust his son James, the nightclub owner, is happy: they confronted each other in court four years ago to establish who controls the family trust.

JASPER GERARD

'Hollywood's obsession with William Shakespeare — our exclusive preview of the next ten sequels, going from Bard to worse'

Giles Coren

With the success of *Shakespeare in Love* at the Oscars, Los Angeles is apparently desperate for Bard-orientated scripts. One young cineaste has already put together a series of pitches for Hollywood, a copy of which has been leaked to *The Times*:

Saving Private Bardolph: The field of Agincourt, 1415. The King's old buddy Bardolph has gone down behind enemy lines and a team of longbowmen led by Jack Falstaff (Tom Hanks will look great in fat make-up) has to go in and get him the hell out. They do, the French are whupped, and we end with Pistol (Will Smith) observing that "Homies now abed in Harlem shall think themselves accursed they were not here!"

Tempest! Forget the island, in *Tempest!* we go big on the shipwreck itself. Miranda (Kate Winslet, Gwyneth Paltrow?) is the daughter of oil-tycoon Prospero (Michael Caine) who lives on the island. She is travelling back with her fiancé, the rich but monstrous Caliban (Sting) to be married. Then she meets Sebastian (Leonardo DiCaprio) who, despite being brother to the King of Naples, is travelling steerage and is a great dancer. Just as Miranda and Sebastian get down to it, the tempest starts and the ship goes down. Everyone freezes to death except Miranda.

Banquo: First Blood II: He's back, and this time it's personal. It wasn't a ghost at all, Banquo survived (can Ewan McGregor beef up or do we go with Jean-Claude Van Damme?) and today, trained in deadly arts by the three weird ninjas, he is back to revenge himself and claim the throne of Scotland.

Lear as Folk: Old Queen Lear (numerous options) is losing his marbles and has to divide his gay-porn empire between his three homosexual sons — Nathan, Stuart and Vince. Based in the Canal Street area of Manchester, the tragedy begins with two of the three sons unhappy with the size of their portions. After frolics with a hermit called poor Tom, and the taunting of a gimp known as "The Fool", the two bad "sisters" die in a shoot-out and the wronged one moves to Miami to set up a design studio.

Pericles, Prince of Tides: Surely Nick Nolte's last chance for an Oscar. Pericles (Nolte) sails for Tarsus to get over revelations of incest and relieve a famine. He is hard-drinking, hard-living, and hard on himself. But then he meets a lovely therapist called Thaisa (Barbra Streisand), who cures him, and helps him to find the hero inside himself. Supporting role for Judi Dench as the King of Antioch.

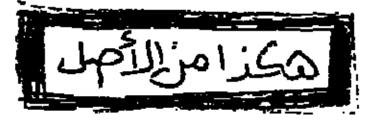
Desdemona Does Dallas (or, The Whore of Venice): Othello was right. Desdemona is a nymphomaniac who beds everything in sight. Des works her way through Lodovico, Cassio, Roderigo and the rest, and in the great orgy scene at the end of the play Othello (Luther Vandross) delivers his famous line "Put up your bright swords for the dew will rust them", which, in this context, takes on an entirely new meaning. The scene in which Des (Gwyneth) and Iago (Roberto Benini) get up to no good with a handkerchief will surely go down as a classic of the genre.

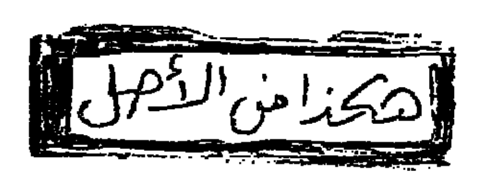
No Weddings and Four Hundred Funerals: Charming Titus (Hugh Grant) wakes up one morning to find he is late for the slaughter. Swearing his way across London in morning dress he lays waste to everyone, finally baking the sons of Tamora, Queen of the Goths (Gwyneth?) in a pie and feeding them to her.

Shylock Stock and Two Smoking Barrels: Hustled out of his life's savings at a poker game fixed by Shylock and his hoodlums, Antonio has 24 hours to come up with the cash or forfeit a pound of flesh. But he is not called the Merchant of Venice for nothing — and soon puts together a drug heist that will solve all his problems. In the final act Shylock (Sly Stallone) asks "if you prick us, do we not bleed?" to which Vinnie Jones (Arnold Schwarzenegger) replies "let's find out, shall we?" and blasts him with his sawn-off friend.

Light Sabres Lost: *Star Wars* meets early comedy. For Navarre, read Death Star. Confusion of identity with Luke Skywalker killing a man who turns out to be his father, and falling in love with a woman who turns out to be his sister. But all turns out well when Chewbacca reveals himself to be a female wookie in disguise. They fall in love.

There's Something About Ophelia: On the day of the big funeral, young Hamlet (Keanu Reeves) has been promised a date with Ophelia (Gwyneth?), the fairest maid in school. While waiting at Polonius's house for her to change for the party he gets his manhood caught in his codpiece and has to be carted off to hospital. Years later he returns to woo her again, but inadvertently mislays some genetic material which, by a hilarious sequence of events, ends up in Ophelia's hair. She rushes off to wash it out in a brook but, leaning on a willow that grows aslant it, she falls in and drowns. Hamlet, doomed to die a virgin, kills everybody.







Jilted lady

NATO AND KOSOVO

Blair makes an effective case for airstrikes against Serbia

The case for military intervention in Kosovo is strong but the Government has often appeared reluctant to articulate it. Yet the scale of the undertaking in itself and the wider implications for Nato demand a more intense public debate than that which hitherto has been held. Tony Blair's emergency statement to the House of Commons yesterday was thus directed as much to the wider public as the assembled parliamentarians. As the Prime Minister will be out of the country for the next few days it was wise as well as proper for him to have taken this opportunity to explain the Government's position. By the time he returns from Berlin, British forces may well be engaged in an armed conflict of unknown intensity and duration.

The already dire situation in Kosovo, as Mr Blair emphasised with deliberate reference to the Srebrenica massacre in 1995, has dramatically worsened in the past 72 hours. Slobodan Milosevic, the Yugoslav President, is using what time and space Nato allows him to pursue a scorched earth policy of extreme brutality. Whether this is gratuitous cruelty, or a pre-emptive partitioning of Kosovo in order to change the terms of future negotiations, is uncertain. What is clear are the consequences of his strategy, highly discriminate slaughter and the systematic razing of Kosovan villages. The exodus of 25,000 additional refugees since the Paris talks collapsed means, as Mr Blair said, that 250,000 Kosovans are again homeless. This is a humanitarian catastrophe.

There are many awful conflicts in this world, most of which pass without outside intervention. But this particular tragedy is being enacted on Europe's stage. Nato can and must intervene. The beginning and end of this tragedy, as Mr Blair noted, can be traced back to Belgrade. It started ten years ago when Mr Milosevic withdrew the autonomy that Tito had awarded to the Kosovans. It should have stopped last October when, faced by the threat of Nato airstrikes, he promised to call off his troops and paramilitaries, let terrorised civilians return to their homes and pursue a political settlement. That promise, like so many others from Mr Milosevic, has proved hollow. Nato must act against Serbia or betray the Kosovans and see the region once again perilously destabilised.

This hard truth has persuaded 13 Nato nations, some of them not always inclined to the use of force, to offer some 200 aircraft for this operation. It would seem that Britain and the United States are of one mind about inflicting such damage on the Yugoslav Army as to alter Mr Milosevic's calculations. Anything short of such an assault would be absolute folly. The most difficult question for military planners and political leaders alike remains less the selection of targets over the next few days than what comes afterwards. It has been suggested that the initial reaction of ordinary Serbs will be to rally round their leadership. Thus, many critics will contend, in the Balkans as in Iraq, external firepower will simply strengthen a dictator.

This is a superficially neat but ultimately flawed analogy. It ignores the fact that the consequences of failing to act in either Iraq or Serbia would be considerable. It also treats two separate situations as indistinguishable. For all Mr Milosevic's efforts at repression, opposition exists in Serbia in a manner unimaginable in Baghdad. The Yugoslav Army is an institution with a distinct sense of its interests. Major Serbian cities are controlled by Mr Milosevic's rivals and opposition to the war in Kosovo is edging Montenegro, the only other republic that has remained within Yugoslavia, towards independence. There is, in short, a real prospect that a determined Nato campaign can achieve its military and political objectives.

DISCORDS FOR SCHRODER

The German presidency has not lived up to its promises

As Gerhard Schröder first imagined it, Germany's six-month presidency of the European Union would speed up the political integration of a Europe stretching both west and east of Berlin. Ambitious reforms of the EU's finances would hasten enlargement and please tax-conscious German voters, too: Herr Schröder promised a cut in Germany's £8 billion net annual contributions. Success would have the added benefit of enabling the untested German Chancellor to shed the shadow of Helmut Kohl, his Christian Democrat predecessor and Europe's dominant voice.

Herr Schröder was so confident of applause that he had this week's summit on Agenda 2000, the blueprint for budgetary reform, moved from Brussels to Berlin. But events have stalled his plans. Today, as the 15 leaders begin their talks, both Germany and the European Union are jangling with discord. The abrupt resignation of the scandal-ridden Santer Commission on March 16 creates a vacuum that the summit must address. Kosovo is again in flames, in a crisis that underlines yet again how dependent peace in Europe is on the resolve of the United States.

Meanwhile, the restructuring of the EU's finances, essential before admitting new members including Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic, is far from settled. The farm ministers' botched reform of the common agricultural policy has achieved the remarkable feat of displeasing France and Britain almost equally. Southern states are clinging to regional and structural subsidies which are, in most cases, unjustifiable. And in the battle to reapportion costs so that Germany can pay less, Britain has no intention of letting its £2 billion-a-year rebate be made the sacrificial lamb. Herr Schröder's pre-summit European tour last week achieved so little that German opponents accused him of applying to the crisis-ridden EU his domestic penchant for indecisiveness.

Herr Schröder has found it as hard to unite Germans as to bring together the rest of Europe. He has yet to capitalise on the resignation of his Finance Minister, Oskar Lafontaine, on March 12. There is muttering on his party's Left that could surface noisily when it votes to crown him as Social Democrat Party chairman. And German industrialists are livid that the disputed Lafontaine tax reform, shifting more of the tax burden from wage-earners to employers, survived Red Oskar's departure.

Herr Schröder has pleaded with colleagues to "stop singing with many voices". To make them do so, however, he needs a successful EU presidency, and a deal on finances at Berlin, more than ever. His desperation has already produced expensive compromises and the tacit shelving of Germany's demand for lower net contributions. The danger is that a weakened Herr Schröder might be willing to pay too high a price for a face-saving deal by tomorrow night. Failure to overhaul EU spending now will put paid to early enlargement. That would be a grave disservice to the Europe that Germany claims to want.

LORD OF LIBERTY

The legacy of Max Beloff to the British idea

"History," Max Beloff once observed, "is not there to be quarried out of archives; it is the residue of what has passed through an individual mind." With Lord Beloff's death, this country has lost not just one of the few orators still capable of intervening pithily in the Lords without stooping to a prepared text, but an astringent and eloquent sifter of Britain's constitutional and imperial record and the implications of that history for this country's relations with America and continental Europe.

A multilingual scholar, as much at home in 19th-century France or in postwar Soviet foreign policy as he was with Stuart England or the British Empire, Max Beloff brought both to his prolific writings and to his political interventions a fascination with what he saw as the uniquely sturdy British correlation of liberty and robust common law. For him, as for many other intellectuals whose family came to imperial Britain from pre-revolutionary Russia, "liberty under the law" was Britain's singular achievement.

His was a highly polemical conservatism: although he took the Conservative whip after becoming a life peer, the small "c" was more pertinent to an intellect no party line could trammel. His life was rooted in a determination to resist whatever risked Britain's incremental but unbroken centuries of constitutional evolution, the process which had absorbed universal suffrage and political accountability within existing structures.

Lord Beloff was at his most impishly iconoclastic when tilting at whatever "dreary political orthodoxy of the moment" might impair respect for these quintessentially British household gods. This was true when he was fighting for excellence in university education: he gave up his chair at Oxford to head the private University of Buckingham out of a belief that state intervention was eroding academic autonomy and standards. It was truer still when he was questioning the wisdom of devolution for Scotland and Wales.

The same regard for historical perspective was the basis of his opposition to Britain's deepening engagement in European union. By birthright and learning, he was too profoundly a European himself for this stance to bear any trace of xenophobia. He simply believed that a federal Europe could not work because it yoked together historical, legal and constitutional experiences that were incompatible. None but British politicians, he convincingly argued in such books as *Britain and European Union*, had ever pretended that anything less than a federal Europe was the goal.

Nothing depressed him more than the claims by British politicians that the economic and constitutional implications of the European Union, and EMU in particular, could be treated as separate. This week he reached the end of a long life which was begun, as he laconically put it, "in the consulate of Herbert Henry Asquith" when the Empire "was as much a part of the order of things as the moon or the stars". Lord Beloff was that paradox, a pragmatic reactionary. For "reaction" was a necessary form of reflection, he would have said, on what history has bequeathed of most value to the modern world.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

'Undemocratic' rules on European appointments

From Lord Shore of Stepney

Sir, Signor Prodi, front-runner for the vacant presidency of the European Commission, is indeed a committed federalist (leading article, March 18) and that fact, for both operational and political reasons, is a major handicap.

The swollen powers and functions of the Commission must be reduced. But to expect a fervent federalist to carry out that task is simply ridiculous: the Commission has acquired the present powers and functions not just because of the usual institutional aggrandisement, but because its mission and role under the treaties is to help forge that "ever-closer union" leading on to a federal state.

There is an additional operational reason. The Commission, under its two former federalist Presidents, Jacques Delors and Jacques Santer, has long known the abuses that the Committee of Independent Experts has so publicly revealed. Yet nothing was done.

They, just as much as Prodi, are men of integrity. But in their anxiety to further the European cause and to do nothing to discredit or damage the reputation of their institutions, they and their senior officials turned a blind eye to what was going on. The same problem faced the European Parliament and accounts for the extraordinary dilatoriness of that body in tackling fraud and abuse.

It is surely inconceivable that our Prime Minister (report, March 23), with a veto on appointment, would allow the most powerful post in Europe to be filled by an advocate of a European federal state which he, in both opposition and government, has pledged himself to oppose.

Yours sincerely,
PETER SHORE,
House of Lords.
March 23.

From Mr Bryan Cassidy, MEP for Dorset and East Devon (European People's Party Parliamentary Group (Conservative))

Sir, Reports today that the rejected Jacques Santer may become one of Luxembourg's MEPs confirm the undemocratic way in which most EU countries put on their lists ex-commissioners and ex-ministers, pushing off hard-working, conscientious MEPs.

The United Kingdom and Ireland are the only countries where the citizens decide who are to represent them, because both vote for individuals, not party lists. Unfortunately, thanks to the particularly undemocratic form of PR foisted on this country by the Government, we shall become like the rest of the EU. The Labour Party lists for the European election have been drawn up to accommodate "Tony's cronies" and "Labour luvvies", removing some serving MEPs whose views do not accord with current orthodoxy.

In view of critical remarks about the Commission "parachuting" its favourites into top jobs, I am surprised that its ex-President should expect to be parachuted into the European Parliament.

Yours sincerely,
BRYAN CASSIDY,
European Parliament,
Rue Wiertz, B-1047 Brussels.
March 20.

From Professor A. A. Dashwood

Sir, Your contention that the reappointment of any members of the European Commission presided over by Mr Santer would be illegal (leading article, March 17) relies on Article 159 of the EC treaty, which states that a vacancy caused by resignation "shall be filled for the remainder of the member's term of office by a new member . . . ".

Article 159 is about the legal consequences of the premature ending of the terms of office of individual Commission members or the President. The authors must have assumed that members who resigned would not seek reappointment; hence references to "a new member" and to members remaining in office "until they have been replaced".

The case of a resignation en bloc followed by individual reappointment seems not to have been expressly provided for. That being so, it would be wrong to interpret the treaty as fettering the political discretion of those choosing the members who will hold office until January 2000.

Ministers who resign under a doctrine of collective responsibility are not thereby disqualified from holding office in the next government. The hurdle they must surmount is a political, not a legal one; and so, the Court of Justice would surely find, it must be also with the Commission.

Yours faithfully,
A. A. DASHWOOD
(Director),
Centre for European Legal Studies,
University of Cambridge,
10 West Road, Cambridge CB3 9DZ.
March 21.

From Mr Richard Corbett, MEP for Merseyside West (Party of European Socialists Group (Labour))

Sir, The Benn/Major/Hague proposal that the House of Commons should approve the UK Commissioners (Peter Riddell on Politics, March 18) is constitutional nonsense.

It is up to the European Parliament to approve candidate commissioners and, under the terms of the Amsterdam treaty, nominations are made jointly by national governments and the President-elect of the Commission.

This novelty is intended to give the President the chance of constituting a coherent team. If each national parliament were to elect commissioners separately, such an objective would be lost.

Yours sincerely,
RICHARD CORBETT
(Vice-Chair,
Institutional Affairs Committee),
European Parliament,
Rue Wiertz, B-1047 Brussels.
March 18.

From Councillor Mark Sivyer

Sir, In my view Sir Julian Critchley (letter, March 17) and other pro-Europeans have done huge harm to the European debate. For years, Sir Julian has indulged in point-scoring, his letter being another example, but has never managed to move the debate along.

He is in grand company. Sir Edward Heath's attitude seems to suggest that it is a sign of stupidity for a politician even to question the wisdom of Europe and Brussels. It is little wonder that this country has not been a more positive force in Europe's politics when Europe's British champions are so uninspired and uninspiring.

Yours faithfully,
MARK H. SIVYER,
30 Gunters Lane, Bexhill on Sea,
East Sussex TN39 4EN.
March 16.

Bottled spell to fend off witches

From Dr A. G. Massey

Sir, Having just finished a detailed study of a late-17th-century witch bottle, I was interested to note that witchcraft was again on the increase (interview, "Why I gave it all up to become a witch", March 19).

Witch bottles were white magic devices used to protect homes from the malpractice of roving witches in days when people would have needed more in the way of reassurance than Phyllis Curott's blithe "nor do we cast spells to harm people".

This green glass wine bottle, dating from about 1685, had been sealed with a cork and beeswax before being buried upside down under a Surrey cottage. It was about half-filled with an aqueous solution of sodium nitrate, potassium nitrate and calcium sulphate, the latter undoubtedly arising from hard well-water.

A brownish sediment contained all manner of things, many only in minute amounts: silica, calcium phosphate, calcium carbonate, plant debris, part of an insect's leg, human(?) hair, wool fibres, linen fibres, cotton fibres (colourless, pink, blue and black), small pointed hairs (eyelashes?) and one or two unidentified animal hairs.

The most exquisite additions were nine, hand-made, brass pins about 22mm long. They had all been carefully bent into the form of a letter L as a single bunch and, from the angles, it was possible to deduce which pins had been at the front or the back of the group during bending. Each tiny pin, barely 0.64mm in diameter, had a head made by wrapping fine wire twice around the shank and was also partially covered by a coating of black copper sulphide.

Other witch bottles were mentioned in several editions of *The Times* during 1954 (article, February 15; letters, March 8, 19 and 24).

The practice, which we may scoff at nowadays, shows just how terrified people were of the supernatural in bygone eras.

Yours faithfully,
A. G. MASSEY,
Birklands, 214 Forest Road,
Loughborough LE11 3HU.
alan@birklands.demon.co.uk
March 22.

'Looted' art

From the Director of the Tate Gallery

Sir, The comment in your diary today that "the huge Nazi art scandal that hit the National Gallery is set to engulf the Tate" is pure sensationalism.

British national museums and galleries are, in fact, leading the world on this issue and are the first institutions internationally to agree to systematically and painstakingly research their collections to ensure that they do not contain works of art which might have been looted by the Nazis between 1933 and 1945.

This has been welcomed by organisations worldwide including the Holocaust Educational Trust, which sees the initiative as an example to museums around the world.

Earlier this month, the National Gallery made public a list of 120 of its paintings over which there might be uncertainty about provenance during the vital war years (report, March 2) and of these only eight to ten appear to give grounds for possible concern.

Every other national museum and gallery in the country is currently preparing an action plan outlining the research that it will undertake.

Our initial work suggests that it is unlikely that more than a handful of works in British collections will be open to dispute.

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS SEROTA,
Director,
Tate Gallery,
Millbank, SW1P 4RG.
March 17.

Pinochet verdict

From Professor Alan Maynard and Mr Tom Sackville

Sir, Last week we were separately in Chile, where the delays by the law lords in dealing with the Pinochet case are causing uncertainty and concern in the run-up to presidential elections. It appeared to us that their Lordships' excessive delay in reaching a decision has had unfortunate, though wholly avoidable, consequences for the internal affairs of another State.

Two of them, Lord Saville of Newdigate and Lord Phillips of Worth Matravers, are engaged elsewhere, chairing public inquiries into the Bloody Sunday shootings and BSE (report, February 28). Their selection, in conjunction with the earlier controversy surrounding Lord Hoffmann, has called into question the efficiency, and damaged the international reputation of the English legal system.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN MAYNARD,
Co-director, York Health Policy Group,
TOM SACKVILLE,
Chief Executive, International Federation of Health Funds,
c/o York Health Policy Group,
IRISS D Block,
University of York, YO10 5DD.
March 22.

London's water table

From Professor R. J. Mair, FEng

Sir, Warnings of the damage London could suffer from a rising water table (report, March 11) are unduly alarmist.

It is important to distinguish between the shallow-water table (which is generally found a few metres below ground level) and the deep-water table in the aquifer of sands and chalk that lies at great depth in the London area below thick clay strata. It is only the latter which is now rising by as much as three metres a year, having been lowered considerably by pumping from wells since the Industrial Revolution; this rise is a result of the industrial pumping having now ceased.

Before the Industrial Revolution, a high artesian water table in the deep aquifer of sands and chalk fed the fountains of Trafalgar Square, as your illustration showed, but the combination of thick clay, overlying gravels and the draining effect of streams and the River Thames prevented the shallow water table from rising to flood levels; this would also apply today.

The concerns you mention about the effects of the rising water table on, for example, London's Tube system, buildings with deep foundations and basements, underground car parks and deep services are, indeed, justified. These are principally about differential movements and possible leakage, and it therefore makes good sense to consider controlling the rising water table by installing a scheme of new pumping boreholes — as proposed by various organisations, including Thames Water.

Even if no deep-level pumping scheme is initiated, however, buildings will not "pop out of the ground" like jack-in-the-boxes.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT MAIR,
Department of Engineering,
University of Cambridge,
Trumpington Street,
Cambridge CB2 1PZ.
rjm50@eng.cam.ac.uk
March 11.

Tory reselection

From Mr Martin Ball

Sir, At long last, the Conservative Party's grassroots members are shaking off any remaining vestiges of deference (report, "Tory activists demand secret votes on MPs", March 15). The concern, however, is that such a reform will be hijacked by local association bigwigs to strengthen their power.

To prevent this happening, William Hague should be leading his rank-and-file members in the creation of a genuinely participatory party democracy.

Yours faithfully,
MARTIN BALL,
38 Greyhound Lane, SW16 5SB.

Noise warning

From Dr Michael Gresty

Sir, "Music and brain power" (Education, March 19) depicts a baby wearing headphones. Under no circumstances, other than for medical assessment, should a baby or young child be exposed to any sound in this manner. The intensities cannot be adequately monitored.

Headphones are a potential source of uncontrolled levels of sound which may damage hearing irreparably in both children and adults.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL GRESTY,
Medical Research Council,
National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery,
8-11 Queen Square, WC1N 3BG.
March 19.

Ulster divide

From Mr Conor White

Sir, It was with a mixture of horror and fascination that I read Ruth Dudley Edwards's review of *Loyalists* by Peter Taylor (Books, March 18). Did I read correctly that "because of the values of the Ulster Protestant culture from which they spring, loyalists tend to be more honest than republicans, so for the most part, Taylor's interviews elicit truth rather than propaganda"?

What a balanced view! This type of thinking is exactly, in my view, what ensures that an end to the Troubles is a far-off dream, for it is in the mind that peace begins.

Yours truly,
CONOR WHITE,
237 Upper Richmond Road,
Putney, SW16 6SN.
March 18.

Balloon record

From Professor Harry McWilliam

Sir, There is surely only one way to cap the magnificent achievement of Jones and Piccard (leading article, March 22), and that is to circumnavigate the Earth by balloon, at the same time crossing the Equator.

Yours sincerely,
HARRY McWILLIAM,
Lewins, Lewins Road,
Chalfont St Peter,
Buckinghamshire SL9 8SA.
harrymcwil@aol.com
March 22.

Letters to the Editor that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: *letters@the-times.co.uk*

Russian debt

From Mr Julian Lawrie

Sir, I work for a company that has some experience of Russian debt (letter, March 17) and I have found that their approach to debt and taxation is quite different from ours. Debt is a way of life with them and "Russians will save Russia" only when they pay their taxes. Russians have never had to pay taxes in living memory and they do not see why they should start now.

The more the Duma tries to increase taxation, the less people will co-operate. Only when Russians believe that the Duma is trying to encourage local economy will they do so and show confidence in the country's enormous potential.

Yours faithfully,
J. W. S. LAWRIE,
1 Azalea Lodge,
Rake, West Sussex GU33 7JE.
March 17.

Figuring it out

From Mr John Fox

Sir, Among the sample maths questions quoted in your report (March 17) for a six-year-old to answer was: "How many different ways can you score 4 by rolling two dice?"

The answer given, presumably by the DfEE, was "3".

My answer is two: one die showing one and the other showing three; and both dice showing two.

If I, as a 52-year-old, have problems with the sample question, what chance does a six-year-old have?

Yours,
JOHN FOX,
High Wood,
Green Lane, Ellisfield,
Basingstoke RG25 2QL.
john@foxco.netkonect.co.uk
March 18.

Wedding gifts

From Mr James Lancelot

Sir, Perhaps the most unusual wedding present my wife and I received (letter, March 18) was a pair of books, *The Oxford Dictionary of Quotations* and *The Oxford Companion to the Christian Church*. They were not on our list; yet 16 years on they remain among the most valued and most used of our presents.

They have not suffered breakage, they do not require washing or polishing, but they do solve many an argument.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES LANCELOT,
6 The College,
Durham DH1 3EQ.
March 18.

From Mr J. M. Cockram

Sir, Having an interest in antique English silver I have for years always given a Georgian or Victorian silver butter knife as a wedding present.

Such a historical gift is usually well received, although I was worried by one young bride who, some time after the event, did query the receipt of only one fish knife.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN COCKRAM,
Robin Cottage,
Sway Road, Brockenhurst,
Hampshire SO42 7RX.
March 22.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 23: His Excellency Mr Choi Sung-Hong was received in audience by The Queen and presented the Letters of Recall of his predecessor and his own Letters of Credence as Ambassador of Korea to the Court of St James's.

His Excellency was accompanied by the following members of the Embassy: Mr Choi Jong-moo (Minister), Mr Yoon Jong-hee (Minister), Captain Lee Byung-moon (Defence Attaché), Mr Kwon Tae-shin (Counsellor, Finance), Mr Kim Chil-doo (Counsellor, Commerce), Mr Chung Yong-chil (Counsellor), Mr Park Jin-ho (Counsellor) and Mr Lee Jon-kug (1st Secretary).

Mrs Choi Wha-Boo was also received by The Queen.

Sir John Kerr (Permanent Under Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs) was present.

The Lady Elton has succeeded The Lady Susan Hussey as Lady in Waiting to The Queen.

CLARENCE HOUSE
March 23: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother this afternoon received the Presidents of Queen Mary's Clothing Guild at St James's Palace on the occasion of the Guild's Annual General Meeting.

Dame Frances Campbell-Preston was in attendance.

Dame Frances Campbell-Preston has succeeded the Lady Angela Oswald as Lady-in-Waiting to Her Majesty.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
March 23: The Prince of Wales, Duke of Cornwall, this morning received the Chairman of Duchy Originals, Mr Guy McCraken.

His Royal Highness, President, The Prince's Trust, today received Mr John Jarvis, Chairman, Prince's Trust-Action, Mr Arwyn Thomas, Director, Prince's Trust-Action, and Mr Tom Shebbeare, Chief Executive, The Prince's Trust.

The Prince of Wales, Patron, The British Wheelchair Sports Foundation, attended the launch of the Sporting Chance Appeal at Lancaster House.

The Prince of Wales this evening opened the exhibition 'The Arts of the Sikh Kingdoms' at the Victoria and Albert Museum, London.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 23: The Duke of York visited the Press Association Newscentre, London SW1.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 23: The Prince Edward, Trustee, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, today gave a lunch at Frogmore House, Windsor.

His Royal Highness this evening attended a performance of *Dracula* by the Northern Ballet Theatre at Sadler's Wells Theatre, London WC2.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 23: The Princess Royal this morning opened the British Association of Clothing Machinery Manufacturers' Clotech '99 Exhibition at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, West Midlands, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of West Midlands (Mr Robert Taylor).

Her Royal Highness this afternoon officially opened the Cranfield Innovation Centre, a facility providing 23 workspace units for small businesses, at Moulsoe Road, Cranfield, Bedfordshire, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Bedfordshire (Mr Samuel Whitbread).

The Princess Royal, Patron, International Health Exchange, later attended the Annual General Meeting at The Chancellor's Hall, Senate House, University of London, Malet Street, London WC1.

KENSINGTON PALACE
March 23: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, was represented by Major the Lord Napier and Ettrick at the Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of the Lady Glendevon which was held at Chelsea Old Church, Chelsea, London this morning.

KENSINGTON PALACE
March 23: The Duke of Gloucester today visited Clwyd and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant (Sir William Gladstone, Bt).

The Duke of Gloucester visited the Cais Park Partnership, a voluntary organisation for the young and unemployed, Wrexham, Clwyd.

His Royal Highness afterwards opened the Wrexham Foyer, a youth accommodation and training centre, Wrexham, Clwyd.

The Duke of Gloucester later visited a conservation project at Nant Clwyd House, Ruthin, Denbighshire.

His Royal Highness subsequently visited the new Llanfwrog Almshouses, Ruthin, Clwyd.

The Duchess of Gloucester, President, the Royal London Society for the Blind, today accompanied children from Dorton House School, Sevenoaks, Kent, to visit adapted educational activities for the visually impaired at the British Museum, London WC1.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
March 23: The Duke of Kent, Colonel-in-Chief, this morning visited the 1st Battalion The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment on Salisbury Plain.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
March 23: Princess Alexandra was represented by Major Sir Peter Clarke at the Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of the Lady Glendevon which was held at Chelsea Old Church, Chelsea, London this morning.

Royal engagements

The Queen will visit the London Goodenough Trust for Overseas Graduates, London House, Mecklenburgh Square, WC1, at 3.00.

The Prince of Wales, as patron, Macmillan Cancer Relief, will visit the Macmillan & Hudson palliative daycare centre in Wisbech, Cambridgeshire, at 11.00; will launch the Ely diocese church trails at St Mary's, Beachamwell, Norfolk, at 12.30; and will open the restored Custom House in King's Lynn, at 2.30.

The Princess Royal, president, British Knitting and Clothing Export Council, will visit Nadia Gharbi Designs, Turnham Green Terrace, London W4, at 11.40; as patron, British Universities Sports Association, will attend the Rugby Football Union final at Twickenham, at 12.40; and as Commandant-in-Chief, St John Ambulance Foundation, will attend the Grand Prior reception at Buckingham Palace at 6.30.

The Duchess of Gloucester, patron, will visit the offices of the National Missing Persons Helpline, Upper Richmond Road West, London SW14, at 2.30; and as patron, Scottish Opera will attend a gala evening at the Banqueting House at 6.50.

The Duke of Kent, grand president, Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys, will open new computer facilities at the Diana, Princess of Wales, Children's Hospital School, Birmingham, at 11.00; and as Colonel, Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, will visit the TA company at the Territorial Army centre, Sheldon, at 1.50. Later he will receive the Grand Cross of the Order of Merit of Poland from the Polish Ambassador at Portland Place, at 7.30.

Legal appointment

Judge Roderick Evans, QC, has been appointed Senior Circuit Judge at Cardiff Crown Court. He succeeds Judge Gibbon, QC, who retires from the circuit bench on May 31.

Birthdays today

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Guy Acland, Deputy Master of the Household and Equerry to Her Majesty, 53; Air Chief Marshal Sir John Allison, 56; Mr Roy Berridge, former chairman, South of Scotland Electricity Board, 62; Earl Cadogan, 62; Miss Barbara Daly, make-up artist, 54; His Honour James Fox-Andrews, QC, 77; Mr Richard Giordano, Hon KBE, chairman, BG, 65; Professor John Hedgecoe, Professor of Photography, Royal College of Art, 62; Mr David Jewell, former Master, Haileybury College, 65; Miss Sonia Lannaman, athlete, 43; Sir Peter Leslie, former chairman, Commonwealth Development Corporation, 68; Mr Benjamin Luxon, baritone, 62; Sir Peter Meinertzhagen, former general manager, Commonwealth Development Corporation, 79; Her Hon Suzanne Norwood, 73; Dame Bridget Ogilvie, former director, Wellcome Trust, 61; Sir Herman Ouseley, chairman, Commission for Racial Equality, 54; the Earl of Selborne, FRS, 59; Professor Dorothy Severin, Professor of Spanish, Liverpool University, 57; Miss Maude Storey, former President, Royal College of Nursing, 69; Mr Alan Sugar, chairman, Amstrad, Tottenham Hotspur and Viglen Technology, 52; Mr Philip Venning, secretary, Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, 52; Professor H.B. Whittington, FRS, geologist, 83; Mr P.S. Winfield, former senior partner, Healey and Baker, 72.

Luncheon

HM Government

Mr George Robertson, Secretary of State for Defence, was the host at a luncheon given by Her Majesty's Government yesterday at Admiralty House in honour of Mr Apostolos-Athanasios Tsohatzopoulos, Greek Minister for National Defence.

Reception

Baroness Miller of Hendon

Baroness Miller of Hendon, Chairman of the National Association of Hospital and Community Friends, with former Chairmen Baroness Jay of Paddington and Baroness Macleod of Borve, were the hosts at a reception held in the House of Lords yesterday afternoon to mark the Association's 50th Anniversary. Sir Alan Langlands, Chief Executive of the NHS, also spoke.

Dinners

Carmen's Company

The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, accompanied by the Sheriffs and their ladies, attended the annual livery and awards night dinner of the Carmen's Company held last night at the Mansion House. Mr J.A.T. Saywell, Master, presided, assisted by Mr J.M. Silbermann, Senior Warden, and Mr B.H. Owen, Junior Warden. The Lord Mayor, the Senior Warden and the Recorder of London also spoke.

The Master presented the Carmen's VIVA award to the Royal Mail for the Railnet Scheme, the Sir Henry Royce memorial award to the Lotus Engineering Team for the design of the Lotus Elise and the Carmen's award of Merit 1998 to Liveryman G.R. Westcott for his work in training for the road haulage industry.

United & Cecil Club

Mr Michel Ancram, QC, MP, was the speaker at a dinner of the United & Cecil Club held last night at the House of Commons, by courtesy of Sir Sydney Chapman, MP. Sir Marcus Fox, chairman, presided. Mr Jeffery Boswall also spoke.



Mr Choi Sung-Hong and Mrs Choi Wha-Boo, escorted by Vice-Admiral Sir James Weatherall, left, Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps, at Buckingham Palace yesterday morning to present to the Queen his letters of credence as Ambassador of the Republic of Korea.

Anniversaries today

BIRTHS: Georgius Agricola (Georg Bauer), scientist, Clauchau, Germany, 1494; Joseph Liouville, mathematician, St Omer, France, 1809; William Morris, poet, artist, printer and socialist, Walthamstow, Essex, 1834; Silas K. Hocking, novelist and preacher, Brannel, Cornwall, 1850; Steve McQueen, film actor, Slater, Missouri, 1930.

DEATHS: Queen Elizabeth I, reigned 1558-1603, Richmond, 1603; John Harrison, horologist and inventor of the marine chronometer, London, 1776; Paul I, Emperor of Russia 1796-1801, assassinated, St Petersburg, 1801; Mary Tighe, poet, Woodstock, Co Kilkenny, 1810; Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, poet, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 1882; Charlotte Yonge, novelist, Otterbourne, 1901; Sir Edwin Arnold, poet and scholar, London, 1904; Jules Verne, author, Amiens, 1905; John Millington Synge, dramatist, Dublin, 1909; Enrique Granados, composer, drowned when the *Sussex* was torpedoed in the English Channel, 1916; Mrs Humphry Ward, novelist, London, 1920; Orde Charles Wingate, leader of Chindits, killed in air crash, Assam, 1944; Mary, Queen Consort of King George V, Marlborough House, 1953; Auguste Piccard, scientist and explorer of the stratosphere and sea depths, Lausanne, 1962; Bernard Law Montgomery, 1st Viscount Montgomery of Alamein, Hampshire, 1976.

The Oxford and Cambridge Boat Race ended in a dead heat for the first time, 1877.

Denmark abolished capital punishment, 1911.

Isabel Perón was deposed as President of Argentina in a bloodless coup, 1976.

City of London School

The following have been awarded scholarships for entry to the City of London School in September 1999:

Age 10+

Academic: Freddie A Mohun Himmelweit, The King Alfred School; Zachary Newman, NW London Jewish Day School.

Music: Edmund Gerrans, St Mary's C/E Primary.

Age 11+

Academic: Aidan R Ashton-Griffiths, George Tomlinson Primary; William P Aspinall, Loyola Prep; Edgar N Brodkin, Hasmonean Primary; Edward S Brodkin, Hasmonean Primary; Alexander P Y Brown, Rosh Pinah Primary; Daniel J Coley, Christ Church Bentinck C/E Primary; James A De La Salle, Salcombe Prep; Martin Eden, Grangewood Prep; Luke G Gleave, Snaresbrook College; Tom M. Harwood, Canonbury Junior; Maxim R Kikoler, Mathilda Mark Kennedy School; Alexander J E Laing, St Paul's C/E Primary; Duncan Menzies, Yerbury Primary; Anand Shah, Eastcourt Independent; Lawrence Wong, St Aubyn's School; Joe Zhang, Garden Suburb Junior.

Tite: Timothy Goldfarb, Yerbury Primary.

Welbrom: William P Aspinall, Loyola Prep.

The Worshipful Company of Glovers Award: Daniel J Coley, Christ Church Bentinck C/E Primary.

Music: Alexander McLean, Kentish Town Primary.

Age 13+

Academic: Howard W R Amos, St Anthony's Prep; Peter P G Currie, St Paul's Cathedral School; Robert A Edwards, The Abbey School Tewkesbury; Joshua T C Eisenthal, St Anthony's Prep; Ormeed J Sturmer, Amesbury School; Oliver Stevens, St Anthony's Prep; Yu Zhang, Frideswide Middle School.

Peel: Joshua Beagelman, Sussex House.

Sassoon: Luke C Oakeshott, Dulwich College Prep.

Music: Edward M Ballard, St Paul's Cathedral School.

The Royal Society of Chemistry

The following were admitted as Fellows of The Royal Society of Chemistry in March 1999. They are entitled to use the designation "Chartered Chemist" and the letters CChem FRSC.

J C Anderson, R F Anderson, G D Armitage, J H Braybrook, J V Carey, M Cartwright, J L Castro Pineiro, N Chadwick, J W Chapman, G L Collier, M A Day, P M Ennis, P G Evans, N J Everall, W Fraser, I R Gordon, T T Griffiths, A B Hanley, R Hardy, G Hasman, J M Hutson, R H Ide, P D Kane, H Kaur, J M Kelly, N A Kerton, J R Kirk, H Kozlowski, B W Laverty, A W Lloyd, J R Lu, N M Malmsten, I McAlpine, J E L McDonald, C F Moffat, W B Motherwell, W Nesbit, H A S Payne, J M Pratt, Y T Que, B J Rawlings, D A Russell, I C Sage, E G Scovell, G Stemp, W C Stoten, M A M Stroud, M J K Thomas, H T Dieck, D S Urch, P H Walton, R J Ward, B H Warrington.

Church news

The Ven Clive Young, Archdeacon of Hackney, has been appointed to the Suffragan See of Dunwich in the St Edmundsbury and Ipswich Diocese, in succession to the Right Rev Tim Stevens on the latter's translation to the Leicester See.

Memorial services

Lady Glendevon

Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother was present at a service of thanksgiving for the life of Lady Glendevon held yesterday at Chelsea Old Church.

Princess Margaret was represented by Major Lord Napier and Ettrick and Princess Alexandra by Major Sir Peter Clarke.

The Rev Dr Peter Elvy officiated and Mr Nicolas Paravicini, son, read the lesson. Mrs Elizabeth Ann Hall, granddaughter, read from *Journey for a Soul* by Pope John XXIII, Mrs Syrie Mavroleon, granddaughter, read from the works of Christina Rossetti, the Hon Jonathan Hope, son, read from the works of Siegfried Sassoon and Lord Glendevon, son, read *The Night will Never Stay* by Eleanor Farjeon.

Mr Robin Compton gave an address. Among others present were:

Count and Countess Chandon De Briailles (son-in-law and daughter), Mrs Nicholas Paravicini (daughter-in-law), Mr and Mrs Charles Paravicini, Mr Derek Paravicini and Miss Sasha Mavroleon (grandchildren), Mr Robert Hall and other members of the family.

The Marquess and Marchioness of Linlithgow, the Marchioness of Salisbury, Countess De La Warr, the Countess of Suffolk and Berkshire, the Earl and Countess of Pembroke and Montgomery, Viscount Head, Maria Carmela Viscountess Hambleden, Lord Alexander Hope, Lord Camoys, Lord Chetwode, Lord Hartwell, Lady Carrington, Lady Holderness, Lord Harewell, Lady Lloyd.

Lady Anne Southby, Lady Angela Oswald, Lady Diana Herbert, Lady Margaret Colville, Lady Melissa Wyndham, Lady Anne Cowdray, Lady Sarah Jane Learoyd, the Hon Lady de Zulueta, the Hon Mrs Martin Cullen, the Hon Mrs Stopford Sackville, the Hon Mrs Marr-Johnson, the Hon Mrs Wyndham, the Hon Lady Morrison, the Hon Mrs Townend, the Hon Laura Lloyd.

Sir Edward Ford, Sir John and Lady Coward, Sir Michael Craig-Cooper, Lady (Simon) Hornby, Lady Wilkins, Sir Roger Gibbs (chairman, The Wellcome Trust), Mr Simon and Lady Julia Prior-Palmer, Baron and Baroness von Westenholz.

Mr Johnny Paravicini, Mrs Mary Ann Paravicini, Mrs Robert Compton, Mrs Anne Longden, Brigadier Andrew Parker Bowles, Colonel I W Gore-Langton, Colonel Gerard Leigh, Mrs Mary Anne Kenyon, Mrs Jean Wellcome, Mr Peter Starr, Mrs Peter Cazalet, Mr Peter Laing, Mr and Mrs Richard Southby, Miss Min Hogg, Dr David Hay, Mr and Mrs Tony Morgan, Mr Peter Johnston, Mr Simon Maxwell, Mrs A Opinsky, Nicholas Opinsky, Mrs Louise Lane Fox, Mrs Simon Marr-Johnson, Miss Elizabeth Winn.

Mrs Lucinda Green, Mr Derek Hill, Dr Rana Kabbani, Mr and Mrs Jamie Maclean, Mr and Mrs Amscotts Wilson, Judge Frederick Marr-Johnson, Mr and Mrs Schuyler Chapin, Mr and Mrs T Chapin, Mrs Robert Shafto, Mr Anthony Cazalet, Mrs Roderic More O'Ferrall, Mr Charles Farrell, Miss D Farrell, Mr and Mrs Narindar Saroop, Mrs P Elvy, Miss Jean Brennan, Miss Pat Holliday, Miss A Baxter, Mrs D Berry, Mr David Howard, Mr Jeremy Learoyd, Mr Mark Hampton (Royal Literary Fund), Mr Tim Betley (Royal Bank of Canada in Guernsey) and many other friends.

Lord Lowry

The Lord Chancellor was present at a service of thanksgiving for the life of Lord Lowry, Lord of Appeal in Ordinary, 1988-94, and Lord Chief Justice of Northern Ireland, 1971-88, held on Monday at Temple Church. Canon Joseph Robinson, Master Emeritus of Temple Church, officiated.

Lord Ackner, QC, read the lesson. Sir Robert Carswell, Lord Chief Justice of Northern Ireland, read *If* by Rudyard Kipling and the Hon Sheila Lester, daughter, read *Happy the man* by John Dryden. Sir John McDermott gave an address.

The Lord Chief Justice was represented by Lord Justice Rose and the Master of the Rolls by Lady Justice Butler-Sloss. The President of the Family Division and the Attorney-General attended. Among others present were:

Lady Lowry, QC (widow), the Hon Margie Lowry (daughter), Mr and the Hon Mrs Neville McCoubrey (son-in-law and daughter), Dr Lester (son-in-law), Mr and Mrs Paul Calvert (stepson and stepdaughter-in-law), Dr Derek Chase and Dr Sandra Chase (stepson-in-law and stepdaughter), Robert, Kynne and Karen McCoubrey (grandchildren), Natasha and Dominic Calvert and Hannah and Thomas Chase (stepgrandchildren), Mr and Mrs Eric Martin (brother-in-law and sister-in-law), Mr and Mrs David Mabood and other members of the family.

Lord and Lady Bridge of Harwich, Lord and Lady Hutton, Lord Browne-Wilkinson, Lord Hope of Craighead, Lord Clyde, Lord Goff of Chieveley, the Treasurer of Inner Temple and Lady Lloyd, Lord Lane, Lady Ackner, Lord Carew (representing the Convenor, Cross Bench Peers, House of Lords), Lord Templeman, Lord and Lady Borrie, QC, Lord and Lady Nolan, Lady Mayhew of Twysden, Lord and Lady Jauncey of Tullichettle, Lord and Lady Oliver of Aylmerton, Lord Hobhouse of Woodborough.

Lady Carswell, Lady McDermott, Mr Tom King, CH, MP, Sir John and Lady Balcombe, Lord Justice Nicholson, Lord Justice Clarke, Sir Nicholas Lyell, QC, MP, Sir Basil and Lady Kelly, Sir Charles and Lady Mantel, Sir Ralph and Lady Gibson, Lord Justice Simon Brown, Sir Robert Porter, Lord Justice Mummery, Lord Justice Chadwick, Lord Justice Kennedy, Lord Justice and Lady Ward, Lord Justice Thorpe.

The Hon Mrs Williams, Sir Noel Larmour, Sir Barry and Lady Sheen, Sir Barry Shaw, QC, Sir David and Lady West-Russell, Sir Ralph and Lady Kilner Brown, Sir Douglas Falconer, Sir Kenneth and Lady Hollings, Sir Christopher Benson, Sir James Nursaw, QC, Sir David Calcutt, QC, and Lady Calcutt, Sir Irvine Goulding, Sir Louis Blom-Cooper, QC, the Treasurer of Middle Temple and Lady Kennedy, Mrs Justice Bracewell, Mr Justice Scott Baker, Mr Justice Holman, Mr Justice Bodey.

His Honour Denis McDonnell, His Honour Robert Rowland, Judge Anthony Thompson, QC, Judge Toulmin, QC, His Honour Alan King-Hamilton, QC, His Honour Arthur Mildon, QC, and Mrs Mildon, Judge Bowsher, QC, Judge Tessa Moorhouse, Judge Michael Coombe, Judge Hubert Dunn, QC, Judge Machell, Judge Michael Rich, QC, Judge Thornton, QC, Judge Stephen Lloyd, Master Nigel and Mrs Murray.

Mr Joseph Butler-Sloss, Mr Benet Hytner, QC, Mrs Joseph Robinson, Mr Stephen Bellamy, QC, and Mrs Rita Bellamy-James, Mr Graeme Williams, QC, Mr and Mrs Geoffrey Heggs, Mr Christopher Sallon, QC, Mr Florence O'Donoghue, Mr James Goudie, QC, Mr Leolin Price, QC, Mr Christopher Morcom, QC, Mr Leslie Joseph, QC, Mr Michael Sherrard, QC, and Mrs Sherrard.

Mr Michael Essayan, QC, Mr D Owen Thomas, QC, Mr John Gardiner, QC, Mr Gerard Ryan, QC, Miss Sheila Cameron, QC, Mr Alan Ball, Mr and Mrs Peter Wilson, Mr Oliver Lodge, Mr and Mrs John Wilkinson, Mr Richard Meade, Mr and Mrs Michael Mellulsh, Mr J A Vallance White, Mrs Belinda Banham, the Rev David Haggan, Mr Tom Turner, Mr Tony Shaw, QC, Miss Diana Cotton, QC, Mr John Travers Clarke, Dr and Mrs Alec Lyons, Mr J Corrall.

Brigadier Charles Wright (Under Treasurer, Middle Temple), Mr I W Wilson, QC (Under Treasurer, Inn of Court of Northern Ireland, also representing the Arellian Association), Mrs Barbara Freeth and Mr R L Jones (Ashley Gardens residents' association), Mr John Creaney, QC (Faugh-a-Ballagh club), Miss Elizabeth Lawson, QC (Family Law Bar Association), Mr Stephen Oliver, QC (Presiding Special Commissioner, and President, VAT and Duties Tribunals).

Mrs Mary Bryn Davies (*The Law Report*), Mr John Stevens (Olympia International Show Championships), Mr Brian Ward (representing the Vice-Chancellor, University of Ulster), Ms Melanie Lewis (Fulbrook Court), Mr P R Glazebrook (Jesus College, Cambridge), Mr Hugh Ritchie (Northern Ireland Court Service), Mr Simon Brooks-Ward (Royal Windsor Horse Show).

Mr Nigel Wilkinson (Bar Golfing Society), Mr John Watherston (Registrar, Privy Council), Mr John Cushinan (vice-chairman, Bar Council of Northern Ireland), Judge Sander (Exeter Group of Courts), Ms Anthea Tatton-Brown (Deputy Under Treasurer (Students) Middle Temple) and many other friends and former colleagues.

Miss Kathleen Robinson

A memorial service for Miss Kathleen Marian Robinson, obstetrician and gynaecologist, was held yesterday in the Chapel of the Royal Free Hospital, London, NW3.

Father Peter Harries, OP, Roman Catholic Chaplain, officiated. The Rev Julia Wiktorska, Free Church Chaplain, and Professor Robert Shaw, President of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, read the lessons. Mr Humphrey Roberts read a poem. Mr Philip Chalk and Miss Jill Everett gave addresses.

Latest wills

Charles William Hayes, of Tarporley, Cheshire, left estate valued at £1,716,947 net.
He left £1,000 to the National Society for Epilepsy; £500 to St Helen's Church, Tarporley.

Charles Edward Johnson, farmer, of Fir Crook, Co Durham, left estate valued at £1,453,504 net.
He left £500 to both the Methodist Church, Wolsingham and St Mary and St Stephen's Church, Wolsingham.

Helen Kay, of Tunbridge Wells, Kent, left estate valued at £1,014,703 net.
She left £10,000 to the Jewish Blind Society and to Nightingale House.

Eunice Mary Keen, of Broomfield, Chelmsford, Essex, left estate valued at £1,745,713 net.

Grania Elizabeth Kemmis Matterson, of Alnwick, Northumberland, left estate valued at £1,853,532 net.
She left £1,000 each to Northumbria Branch of the British Red Cross, Imperial Cancer Research Fund and Alnwick group of the Riding for the Disabled Association.

John Edmund Oates, retired company director, of Doncaster, South Yorkshire, left estate valued at £1,331,118 net.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr I.D. Appleby and Miss E.L. Coulman

The engagement is announced between Iain, only son of Mr and Mrs Malcolm Appleby, of Purley, Surrey, and Emma, daughter of Mr Alan Coulman and Mrs Jean Jones, and stepdaughter of Mr Leslie Jones, of St Leonards on Sea, East Sussex.

Dr R. Dixey and Miss M. Bayraktaroglu

The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Dr and Mrs Roger Dixey, of Streatley, Berkshire, and Mihda, daughter of Mr and Mrs Koray Bayraktaroglu, of Istanbul.

Mr D.S. Gregg and Miss R.I. Hamilton

The engagement is announced between David, son of Mr and Mrs Alan Gregg, of Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne, and Rebecca, daughter of Mr and Mrs Nigel Hamilton, of Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire.

Mr J.E. Hall-Smith and Miss A.P.R. Bircher

The engagement is announced between James, son of Mr and Mrs Jeremy Hall-Smith, of Milland, West Sussex, and Alexandra, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Paul Bircher, of Eastbourne, East Sussex.

Mr D.S. Hawkins and Miss P.A. Smith

The engagement is announced between David, elder son of Mr and Mrs John Hawkins, of Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire, and Philippa, daughter of Mrs Elisabeth Smith, of Yearsley, Yorkshire.

Mr B. Pritchard-Lewis and Ms J.S. Woodward

The engagement is announced between Brian, only son of the late Commander John Lewis, MBE, DSC, and Mrs Lewis, of Anglesey, North Wales, and Jacqueline Susan, youngest daughter of the late Bernard Edward Woodward and of Mrs Woodward, of Christchurch, Dorset.

Mr O.J. Purnell and Miss E.L. Hakansson

The engagement is announced between Oliver, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Nicholas Purnell, of London, and Emma, daughter of Mr and Mrs Anthony Hakansson, of London.

Mr A.V. Stanic and Miss L.S. Seligman

The engagement is announced between Alexander Vladimir, son of Mr and Mrs Vladimir Stanic, of Cobham, Surrey, and Lucy Sarah, daughter of Mr and Mrs Nigel Seligman, of Clunie, Banffshire.

Mr N.A. Woodward and Miss S.L. Pink

The engagement is announced between Nicholas, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Paul Woodward, of Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, and Sarah, daughter of Mr and Mrs Philip Pink, of Winchester, Hampshire.

Marriage

Mr R.W. Brown and Mrs F.B. Hollas

The marriage took place on March 20, 1999, at St Swithin's Church, Bath, of Mr Robert William Brown and Mrs Frederica Betty Hollas, widow of Gordon Harwood Hollas.

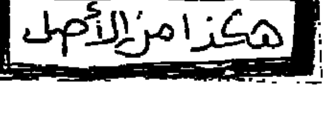
Appointment

Museums & Galleries Commission

Ms Laura Drysdale has been appointed Head of Advisory Services at the Museums & Galleries Commission from April 12.

The Three Faiths Forum

The Three Faiths Forum was launched in Wales yesterday at Lampeter University. The keynote speaker was the co-founder Sir Sigmund Sternberg. Professor D.P. Davies, Rabbi Professor Dan Cohn-Sherbok and Dr Dawoud El-Alami also spoke.



OBITUARIES

LORD BELOFF

Lord Beloff, FBA, Gladstone Professor of Government and Public Administration, Oxford University, 1957-74, and founding Principal of the University College at Buckingham, died on March 22 aged 85. He was born on July 2, 1913.

In so far as Britain has an equivalent of a continental-style intelligentsia, Max Beloff was one of its leading lights. The son of cultured Russian Jewish immigrants, he was a scholar, journalist, historian, polemicist and politician, but above all he was a controversialist who never felt more comfortable than when engaged in argument. His themes were never petty. The rise and fall of empires and great powers, modern attitudes to education, the future of the nation state: these were some of the subjects that engaged his sparkling, highly confrontational brain.

One of his best books was entitled *The Intellectual in Politics*, and unlike many scholars, Beloff believed that a good intellect carried with it the responsibility to engage in the political process. Along with many other prominent men of the late 1970s — Hugh Thomas, Paul Johnson, Alun Chalfont, Reginald Prentice, Woodrow Wyatt, Kingsley Amis and Bernard Levin among them — Beloff made the transition from Left to Right, largely prompted by the sight of over-mighty trade unionism. It was the exodus of men such as him that gave Thatcherism an overall intellectual depth that its economic policies alone would not have merited.

Beloff became one of the leading lights of what was then called the New Right, and used think-tanks such as the Centre for Policy Studies, the Institute for the Study of Conflict and Terrorism and the Institute of Economic Affairs to try to keep the Conservative Governments of the 1980s up to the ideological mark. His anti-collectivist views on education were put into bricks and mortarboards when he became the founder and Principal of the private University College at Buckingham (now the University of Buckingham), which allowed him to test principles he had been propagating since the 1960s. Lord Beloff ended his days as the foremost intellectual figure of the Eurosceptic movement, where he used his considerable knowledge of constitutional matters — he had written the textbook on *The Government of the United Kingdom* in 1980 — to attack the Major and Blair Governments over moves towards closer European integration. However that particular argument progresses, few thinkers have had so profound an influence on the life of the country in the postwar period.

Beloff's central argument was that history, rather than what he called "the pretensions of political scientists", gave the best clue both to national character and to the future political direction of peoples. The past, he said, can give "suggestions and intimations that set the imagination working", and he made it his life's work to set as many imaginations working as possible.

Max Beloff was the oldest child of a gifted Jewish family. Like so many Russian Jews, his father, Simon Beloff, came to England in the aftermath of the 1917 Revolution and established himself in business, amassing a respectable fortune. Max inherited a full measure of parental drive and energy.

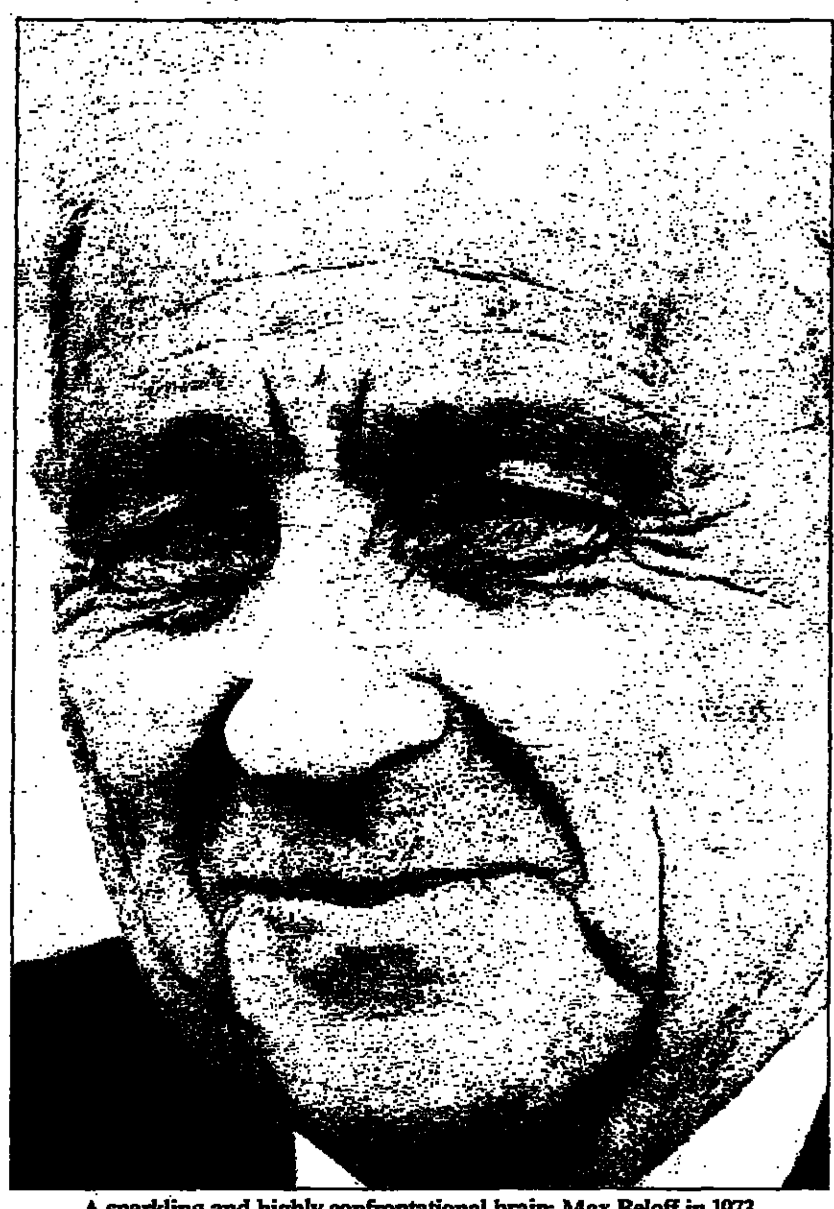
He attended St Paul's School, for which he retained a special affection. His election to a history scholarship at Corpus Christi College, Oxford, was followed by the Gibbs scholarship in 1934 and a First in the Modern History School. In 1935 he was elected to a senior demyship at Magdalen and in 1937 to a junior research fellowship at Corpus.

The fruit of these early years at Oxford was *Public Order and Popular Disturbances 1660-1717* (1938), in which he looked at the incidence of economic and religious agitation between the reigns of Charles II and Anne. Based upon a BLitt thesis, it was a thoroughly scholarly affair, and was followed by his appointment as assistant history lecturer at Manchester University, where he stayed until 1940 when he was called up. Ill-health, however, cut short his service in the Royal Corps of Signals. He returned to Manchester until Oxford called him back in 1946 as the Nuffield Reader in Comparative Institutions.

Thus began a long association with the then infant Nuffield College, where Beloff became a Fellow in 1947. His academic interests had by this time moved from the 17th century to later periods and to foreign fields. For Chatham House he undertook two solid and careful studies of Soviet foreign policy, a field for which his background and linguistic attainments particularly fitted him. These studies were published in two volumes as *The Foreign Policy of Soviet Russia* (1947 and 1949), and were followed by *Soviet Policy in the Far East* (1953).

He developed a parallel interest in the United States and American history, producing in 1948 the first serious study of Thomas Jefferson to appear in England: *Thomas Jefferson and American Democracy*. An edition that year of *The Federalist* (the 18th-century papers written to bring about ratification of the American Constitution) carried a long expository introduction by Beloff. A later volume in the Home University Library, *American Federal Government* (1959), was a sound incisive outline of the American political system.

For all his interest in the United States, the focus of Beloff's concern and attachments remained in the older world, not least its place in the new order. On assuming the Gladstone Chair of Government and Public Administration at Oxford in 1957, he proposed for himself a programme of study involving the impact upon British and imperial institutions of Britain's postwar association with Europe and the Atlantic alliance.


A sparkling and highly confrontational brain: Max Beloff in 1973

This was a natural development of his growing interest in problems of foreign policy, reflected in his Albert Shaw Lectures, delivered at Johns Hopkins University in 1954 and published as *Foreign Policy and the Democratic Process* (1955). A brief volume on *Europe and the Europeans* (1957) was a by-product of work done by Beloff as *rapporteur général* to a Council of Europe study group on the foundations of European unity in 1956.

His ideas on this subject were developed in *New Dimensions in Foreign Policy* (1961) in which, with regard to Britain's relationship with the European Economic Community, he noted that there was "strong scepticism in Britain as to the possibility of tighter forms of integration". This was followed by a more lively and arresting work, *The United States and the Unity of Europe* (1963), in which he argued that America was seeking to prevent a united Europe, fearing its economic and political might.

In 1969 there appeared the first volume of *Imperial Sunset*, which covered the years 1897 to 1921 and traced the process by which Britain began the liquidation of her imperial role. Although the progress of the work's concluding volumes was interrupted by other scholarly and public interests, Beloff found time to compose two other lengthy studies, writing *The Government of the United Kingdom* (1980, with G.R. Peele) and *Wars and Welfare* (1984) which was a full-scale history of 20th-century Britain.

This large output was the product of a lifetime of unremitting scholarly labour. Oxford has known few more assiduous or professional scholars in the modern field than Beloff. With excellent linguistic equipment, speed in assimilation and fluency in exposition, he was also extremely competent in the organisation of his material. Except when his polemical interests were aroused, it could be argued that his work lacked something of flavour; the writing, though always lucid, was not always elegant or enticing. His virtues were those of accuracy, comprehensiveness and good sense.

Beloff's initial professional assiduity and rigour did not make him indifferent to issues of party politics. Indeed, from his early days as a member of the Oxford Union he was a keen controversialist. He was Editor of the *Oxford Magazine* for a year in the 1950s, and there were few educational debates in Oxford or the country at large which failed to draw his fire. When the Oxford Union put up the motion "This house would not fight for King and Country" in 1933, he was teller for the ayes, though when the debate was replayed fifty years later, Beloff had repented his youthful pacifism and adopted the contrary stance.

In party politics, he was an active member of the Liberal Party and served for many years as president of the South Oxfordshire Liberal Association. He resigned in 1972 over education policy, complaining that the younger elements within the party were preaching "anarchism and socialism", and started his move towards the Conservatives. Education was always central to his interests, because, in his view, it was central to society. His inaugural lecture as Gladstone Professor, delivered on February 20, 1958, had as its subject *The Tasks of Government*; much of it, however, was given over to a detailed criticism of the Oxford Honour School of Modern Greats or PPE, which combined politics, philosophy, and economics.

That concern with the practicalities of education was to bear remarkable fruit some two decades later. Prompted by a belief that educational standards were falling and that the autonomy of the universities was being eroded, Beloff became associated with the attempt to establish a private university in the United Kingdom. When sufficient money was raised to enable the experiment to proceed, Beloff decided to retire early from Oxford and to devote his time to the new University College at Buckingham. As Principal from 1974 to 1979 he threw himself tirelessly into its affairs and was rewarded when in 1983 the college was awarded a Royal Charter, thus becoming a full university able to award degrees. It is doubtful whether anyone else would so readily have made the personal sacrifice involved in leaving academic life in Oxford, and it is unlikely that the experiment would have succeeded without him.

When Beloff retired from Buckingham in 1979 he had expected to resume full-time academic study. But he was knighted in 1980 and created a life peer the following year, which caused him to take on a new set of public obligations. For the Conservative Party he undertook a substantial amount of public speaking and was, prior to the 1983 general election, active in the party's research and policy process. The House of Lords fascinated him and he contributed frequently to its deliberations, not least in the recent question of the abolition of hereditary peers, of which he was a stern opponent.

He remained a prolific writer, as at home with the rough and tumble of daily journalism as with the rigours of academic study. He was an incisive political columnist, not least in *The Times*, and in the years of what should have been his retirement he enjoyed a journalistic Indian summer as a polemical defender of traditional British liberties. In 1990 he lambasted the Conservative Government for its decision to introduce student loans, a move he believed to be as philistine as it was unmeritocratic. Though he had once been in favour of the Common Market, he became an outspoken detractor of the federalist project of European Union, a theme which he expanded on in his book of 1996, *Britain and the European Union: Dialogue of the Deaf*. And only last month, he stoked considerable controversy with an article in *The Times* in which he compared Tony Blair's rise to power to that of Hitler.

A rather aloof man, he was never able to participate easily in conversations without serious intellectual content, and could strike those who came in contact with him as impatient and forbidding. He was, however, enormously generous with his time to students and fellow scholars. He was an honorary LLD of Pittsburgh; an honorary DCL of Bishop's University in Canada; an honorary DLitt of Bowdoin College, United States; and held an Honorary Doctorate from Aix-Marseilles. He was awarded a DLitt by Oxford and in 1973 was elected a Fellow of the British Academy.

In his intellectual autobiography *An Historian in the Twentieth Century* (1992) Max Beloff mourned this century and its flight from reason, scorning the ascendancy of political correctness and lamenting the premature dismemberment of the British Empire. It encapsulated much of his later thought. His many admirers regretted only that there was not more of the man in the book.

He married Helen Dobrin in 1938 and is survived by his wife and two sons.

LORD ST OSWALD

Lord St Oswald, 5th Baron, died on March 18 aged 79. He was born on July 19, 1919.

INHERITING his title and the contents of Nostell Priory, near Wakefield, on his brother's death in 1984, Derek Winn found himself faced with the problems which are so often germane to the stewardship of a stately home. Nostell Priory, commissioned by an ancestor Sir Rowland Winn, 4th Baronet, in 1733 and created over a period of fifty years to 1785 by the architects James Paine and Robert Adam, had passed to the National Trust in 1953, though the family continued to live there. Its contents, which include a remarkable collection of Chippendale furniture, remained in the ownership of the family.

The 4th Lord St Oswald's death faced his successor with tax liabilities of around £4 million. The spectre of the breaking up of the finest documented collection of Chippendale furniture in the world loomed large. If broken up and offered in salerooms, the Chippendale contents of Nostell Priory would have fetched somewhere between £20 million and £40 million, a tempting sum. "I kept thinking of all the dresses it would buy," said Lady St Oswald at the time. "But my husband was determined to keep the collection together."

In the event a solution was found whereby the collection remained intact — and remained at Nostell Priory — and enough money was raised to cover the family's outstanding liabilities and found a new charitable trust to be devoted to the maintenance of the priory and its 2,700 acres of parkland. The National Heritage Memorial Fund purchased the Chippendale collection and some paintings for £6.1 million, leaving £2 million to prime the charitable trust. The money came from a special grant of £25 million made at that time to the National Heritage Fund by the Department of the Environment to secure the future of Nostell Priory and two other threatened country houses: Kedleston Hall, Derbyshire, and Weston Park, Staffordshire.

This was not the last time there was a threat to one of Nostell's valuable collections. In 1994 Lord St Oswald was faced with an admittedly much lesser bill of £79,093 inheritance tax on the estate of his late brother. On that occasion a collection of 18th-century architectural drawings, the originals made by Paine and Adam for their creation of Nostell Priory, was accepted in lieu of payment by the Inland Revenue. The drawings remained at Nostell Priory.

Derek Edward Anthony Winn was the second son of the 3rd Lord St Oswald. He was educated at Stowe School from where he was commissioned into the King's Royal Rifle Corps (60th Rifles) in 1938. In 1942 he transferred to The Parachute Regiment and served in the Middle East and North Africa, where he was wounded. He spent the remainder of the war as ADC to the Governor-General of New Zealand. After the war he served for the three years 1948 to 1951 in the Malayan Police.

In the 1950s he went into film production, among other things acquiring the television rights to the Maigret books. Sold on, these subsequently made it to the small screen as a popular BBC television series. After quitting production Winn farmed for some years in Sussex before returning via a sojourn in London to Yorkshire, where he became more and more involved with his brother in administering the St Oswald lands.

On his brother's death he and his wife, Denise, whom he had married in 1954, threw themselves into the restoration of Nostell Priory, which had become somewhat dilapidated under the 4th Lord St Oswald.


Lord and Lady St Oswald amid the Chippendale furnishings of Nostell Priory, 1986

A large and meticulously crafted doll's house at Nostell, thought to be the work of the young Thomas Chippendale, gave her some indication of how the house would originally have looked, and she copied some of its wallpaper designs.

To raise money Lady St Oswald also held the country's first "stately home car boot sale" at Nostell Priory. On May 23, 1993, traffic jams stretched for 15 miles in all directions as the owners of sixty country houses congregated at Nostell Priory and set up stall to dispose of everything from home-made jam to silverware, fox furs and paintings. Unusually for this type of event, the car boots from which the aristocratic bric-a-brac was dispensed ranged from Rolls-Royces to Land Rovers and the odd horsebox. The event raised £11,000 for the National Trust and £5,000 for asthma research.

A vivacious woman and energetic helpmeet, Lady St Oswald was knowledgeable about Nostell Priory's Chippendale heritage: "We've got fancy, we've got plain, we've got early, we've got late. We must be the only house in England with a Chippendale chopping block," she once enthused to an interviewer, at the same time producing the ten shilling receipt for the purchase.

Lord St Oswald was president of the Wakefield Parachute Regiment Association from 1985. With other former paratroop officers he founded the committee to free Private Lee Clegg, jailed in 1993 for the murder in 1990 of an Ulster teenager at an army checkpoint.

The committee launched its campaign at Nostell Priory in January 1995. Clegg was cleared of murder on appeal earlier this month.

Lord St Oswald was appointed a Deputy Lieutenant of West Yorkshire in 1987. He is survived by his wife, Denise, and by a son and a daughter. His son, the Hon Charles Rowland Andrew Winn, succeeds him.

A WITCHCRAFT TRIAL

ON THIS DAY

March 24, 1857

Among other goings-on at the farm in question it was claimed that the cows lamented, the horses pranced, and the dogs howled.

This is the 24th of March, 1857. Men can go to New York in 10 days, and communicate with Constantinople in 20 minutes. In the opinion of everybody but the Chinese and the Pope, we pass for a very civilised and enlightenend people, rather too "go-ahead" perhaps in our notions, but decidedly exempt from any incubus of superstition or credulity. We are all for education, too. Schools of every description and denomination are sprinkled over the country, and the cry is still for more, until the national instruction question has become one of the topics of the day, like the Income-tax and the affair at Canton.

Yet on this very day, of this very year turns up a real trial for Witchcraft! — not, indeed, an actual arraignment for the practice of the black art, but a case showing as plainly as need be that all our teaching has not been able to eradicate the delusions of two centuries back. At Stafford last week a man was put upon his trial, not for bewitching another, but for undertaking to remove an existing spell in consideration of money payment, and the state of things implied by such a case was further illustrated by the attendance in court, as our report assures us, of a "considerable number of witches," who were anxious, no doubt, about a cause so directly affecting the interests of their profession.

Thomas Charlesworth, now in the 29th year of his age, owns and occupies a farm of 40 acres in the county of Stafford, and pursues the ordinary business of his calling in those parts. In April last year he found that something ailed the milk, that things went wrong in the dairy, that the cheese wouldn't "come", and that the dairymaid was ill. For these facts he seemed to have been at a loss to account, until a man upon his farm suggested that there was Witchcraft at work, and that a certain James Tunnicliff was the man to stop it.

So to James Tunnicliff he repaired, who at once accepted the office, and proceeded to the farm, where, after a few preliminary essays, he presently established himself. The end of it was, that there he remained in the capacity of exorcist till February last, when he was dismissed, but not before he had received for his services some 20/- or 30/- from the said Thomas Charlesworth, who, now in his better senses, became prosecutor on account thereof.

We have only to add that sentence of 12 months' hard labour followed upon the conviction of the prisoner, and we shall have said all that is necessary respecting the trial.

NEWS

Nato sends in the bombers

■ Nato was preparing last night for missile strikes on Yugoslavia as part of what could be the largest military operation in the 50-year history of the alliance.

After the failure of the last-minute talks in Belgrade between President Milosevic and Richard Holbrooke, the American envoy, warships and aircraft were given a countdown for the first phase of the airstrikes..........Pages 1, 4-6

New ruling set to favour Pinochet

■ General Pinochet's bid for freedom will receive a boost today when the highest court in the land rules that he cannot be made to stand trial for crimes of murder and torture allegedly committed before 1988. At the same time the seven law lords are expected to rule by five to two that he has no immunity from prosecution for crimes after that date..........Page 1

IRA men to be freed

Jack Straw's attempt to block the release of four IRA terrorists backfired last night. A judge rejected his efforts to stop the release of the men..........Page 1

Budget investigation

The Treasury select committee is to investigate claims that Gordon Brown misled voters about the impact of the Budget by ignoring the abolition of mortgage interest tax relief in his figures..........Page 2

Family of fraudsters

Nine members of the same family faked car crashes and serious disability as part of an elaborate plot to claim £3 million from insurance companies and benefit agencies..........Page 3

Irvine's 'male world'

The Lord Chancellor chooses to be surrounded by white men, a hearing into race and sex discrimination allegations against him was told. Lord Irvine of Lairg appointed white men to work for him and his circle of contacts was "overwhelmingly male"..........Page 7

Immigration chaos

A £77m computer project to speed up immigration and asylum decisions is at least 14 months behind schedule..........Page 8

Bus lane fines rise

Motorists will be fined up to £1,000 for blocking bus lanes as part of a clampdown to improve bus travel..........Page 9

Cancer test error

A hospital trust has admitted responsibility for a laboratory test mistake that led to a young mother having a healthy breast removed after cancer was wrongly diagnosed..........Page 10

Street plot attacked

A price-fixing deal between two shops that featured in the plot of *Coronation Street* has been condemned by the Office of Fair Trading..........Page 11

Fench judge shamed

A political earthquake hit France when Roland Dumas, the country's highest judge and fifth most important dignitary, was forced out of office by a scandal involving sex and money..........Page 14

Oscars bribery claim

Shakespeare in Love, the winner of the Oscar for the year's best film, has been hit by griping from rivals who claim fairness was "thrown out the window" by a £9.2 million promotional blitz for the film..........Page 15

Police fly in to Borneo

With about 200 dead, Hercules transports of the Indonesian Air Force have disgorged 1,000 police officers to try to stamp out ethnic violence in Borneo..........Page 16

Book offer extended

The *Times* Free Books for Schools offer is being extended after huge demand from schools registered with the scheme..........Page 37

Couple run away to get married

A couple will tie the laces of their trainers before they tie the knot when they get married during the Flora London Marathon next month. Mick Gambrill and Barbara Cole from Croydon, South London, who have competed in 100 marathons between them, will say their vows at the two-mile marker, then *finish the rest of the 26.2 mile race as man and wife*..........Page 7



A thousand schoolchildren last night performed the premiere of *If*, written and conducted by Howard Blake, at London's Royal Albert Hall

Rates hope: Inflation fell to its lowest level in more than four years in February, leaving the City confident that the Bank of England will cut interest rates..........Page 25

P&O plan: P&O proposes a major shake-up of its diverse business interests, *including the flotation of its* Bovis Homes subsidiary and the disposal of Earls Court..........Page 25

Trainspotting: A high-flying City lawyer who is said to be in love with trains is taking a large pay cut to answer the Transport Secretary, John Prescott's call to become the new rail regulator..........Page 25

Markets: The FTSE 100 index fell 92.3 to 6060.5. The pound rose .33 cents to $1.6312 and .19p to 66.80 against the euro. The sterling index rose to 103.2 from 103..........Page 28

Football: Kevin Keegan smiled his way through England's injury list for the match against Poland and said that he felt as excited as "a kid in a toy shop"..........Page 48

Cricket: It was confirmed that David Lloyd is to step down as England coach after the World Cup although his contract was not due to expire until the end of the summer..........Page 48

Boxing: Herbie Hide, the WBO heavyweight champion, gave his friends a scare when he was sent to the canvas of his Norwich gym by his sparring partner..........Page 48

Simon Barnes: "I don't know what it is that England managers get up to in their past lives, but it must be pretty bad. They can't all have been Nero, can they?"..........Page 46

Oscar again: Fascinating though Oscar Wilde is, Benedict Nightingale wonders if *Gross Indecency*, Moisés Kaufman's play at the Gielgud, is anything new..........Page 38

Rising star: Rebecca Clarke is 24 going on nine, which is the age of Lucy, her character in the RSC's *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe*, newly transferred to London..........Page 38

Deacon dazzles: The Tate Gallery in Liverpool has given over an airy new space to a show of the carefully engineered sculptures of Richard Deacon..........Page 39

After Westminster: It is a year since Westminster Abbey's organist Martin Neary was ousted in a bitter dispute. How has he coped? Richard Morrison reports..........Page 40

Easy money: Peps and Tessas made simple; and why, in the run-up to the millennium, you must keep a paper record of all your finances..........Page 17

Getting a grip: Artificial hands have not really changed in the past 30 years. But a new prosthesis can grasp objects in a much more human manner..........Page 18

Sale price: "When Bruce went to meet Somerset Maugham at the Dorchester, Maugham recognised him as a bit of live bait: exactly what he was. It was very cynically done." The biography of Bruce Chatwin..........Page 19

Joanna Coles: "Now remember, *with a baby you can't have passionate sex any more*."..........Page 19

Constructive action: A government task force has recommended that homeowners suffering at the hands of cowboy builders be awarded cash compensation..........Page 35

An Israel Defence Force withdrawal from Lebanon, along with a renewal of negotiations with Syria, is drawing ever closer. The two issues are related: a serious effort by Israel to begin its withdrawal will likely draw Syria to resume negotiations, in order to prevent Israel from unilaterally taking an initiative that will upset the current strategic situation.

The Jerusalem Post

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ **FILMS**
James Christopher reviews Oscar-nominated *Gods and Monsters*, starring Sir Ian McKellen

■ **BOOKS**
Fiona Shaw investigates the mysteries that surround Pontius Pilate

Preview: In *Deadly Rattlesnakes with Steve Irwin* (ITV, 8pm), the Australian travels the US. **Review:** Joe Joseph *examines* ways people deal with fame..........Pages 46, 47

Nato and Kosovo

This tragedy is being enacted on Europe's stage. Nato must act against Serbia or betray the Kosovans and see the Balkan region once again perilously destabilised..........Page 23

Discords for Schröder

The danger is that a weakened German Chancellor might be willing to pay too high a price for a face-saving summit deal..........Page 21

Lord of liberty

Max Beloff's life was rooted in a determination to defend what he saw as the uniquely sturdy British correlation of political freedoms and robust common law..........Page 21

MATTHEW PARRIS

Yesterday's parliamentary fanfare *for a Nato attack on Serbia struck a* ragged note. That had not been the Prime Minister's hope..........Page 2

PETER RIDDELL

What happens if bombing does not work? That question, never fully answered, echoed through the hour of Commons exchanges yesterday on Kosovo..........Page 6

SIMON JENKINS

The objective set out by *Mr Blair* appears to be to bomb the Serbs into granting partial autonomy to Kosovo. It is scarcely credible that a serious person can believe this will be done by bombs..........Page 20

DAVID HINE

What the European Commission needs is competence, a restoration of public-service values and administrative morale, rather than politically imposed leadership...Page 20

GILES COREN

With the success of *Shakespeare in Love*, Los Angeles is apparently desperate for Bard-orientated scripts. One cineaste has a series of pitches for Hollywood..........Page 20

Lord Beloff, historian; Lord St Oswald, landowner..........Page 23

Appointment of EU Commissioners; witch bottles; water table; Pinochet verdict; "looted" art; Russian debt; Ulster; Tories..........Page 21

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 21,059

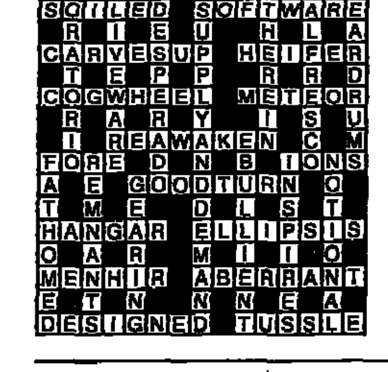
ACROSS

1 Cloth showing a couple of male creatures (7).
5 Good relations offering chat and wine (7).
9 Flowering plant makes one tortured soul pleased at first (9).
10 Branch of bank used by craftsman (5).
11 Officer's threewheeler coming to complete stop (7,6).
13 Performance in town again? Start heading for home (4,4).
15 Material used in roof – a brick (6).
17 Drama when areas dried up (6).
19 Academic session makes one seem troubled, needing rest somehow (8).
22 Inanimate, treated with this drug (13).
25 As religious type, back superior (5).
26 Obscure ceremony outside city on first of December (9).
27 Opening time restricted – that'll produce a reaction (7).
28 Former copper starts to sue evildoer dubiously given pardon (7).

DOWN

1 A lot of big noises appearing heartless (4).
2 It provides new energy for horse (7).
3 Give notice when ousting second in command (5).
4 Current help to traditional wheels of industry (4-4).
5 Whisper coming from good man in control (6).
6 Lying sort, loose in chatter (9).
7 Actor is one in more demanding title role (7).
8 Batsman coming in first wicket down to knock up 60 (10).
12 Pat's the ref, silly old man who's replaced another (10).
14 Nothing to be put in vessel on river – it may be kept in this (9).
16 Demonstration disrupting most profound political initiative (8).
18 Aerial insect has upset girl (7).
20 Where drivers may have to pull up in worst possible situation (3,4).
21 Liveliness as priest brings French art to the fore (6).
23 One style of architecture I love – pleasant, not English (5).
24 Vassal's land producing lengthy quarrel (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 21,058



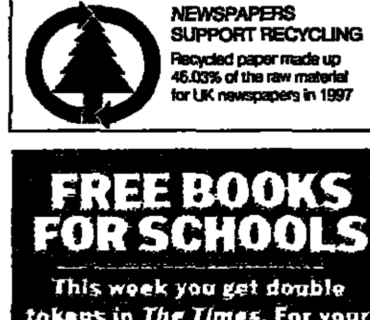
Times Two Crossword, page 48

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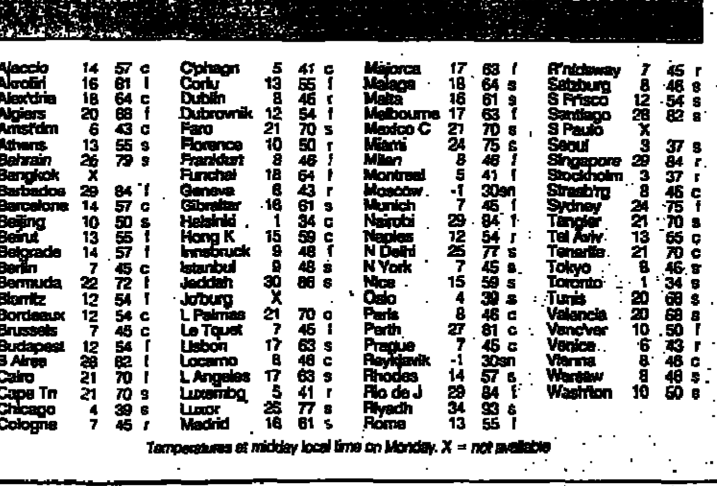
HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 5.55 am — Sun sets: 6.19 pm
Moon sets: 1.31 am — Moon rises: 10.24 am
First quarter today

London 6.19 pm to 5.53 am
Bristol 6.29 pm to 6.03 am
Edinburgh 6.34 pm to 6.03 am
Manchester 6.29 pm to 6.01 am
Penzance 6.41 pm to 6.15 am







☐ **General:** mild with some rain in Wales and N and SW England. Sunny spells in Midlands, E Anglia and SE England. Sun and showers in Scotland and N. Ireland.
☐ **London, SE, Central S & E England, E Anglia, Midlands:** generally dry, sunny spells. Wind SW, moderate. Max 14C (57F).
☐ **Channel Islands, SW England:** increasingly cloudy, patchy rain from west. Wind SW, moderate. Max 14C (57F).
☐ **Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man:** mostly cloudy with rain moving in. Wind SW, moderate. Max 14C (57F).
☐ **Central N & NE England:** cloudier with some rain. Wind SW, fresh. Max 14C (55F).
☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth:** early rain then bright with sunny spells and occasional showers. Wind W to SW, fresh. Max 12C (54F).
☐ **SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands:** early rain then bright but showery. Wind W to SW, fresh. Max 12C (54F).
☐ **NE & NW Scotland, Argyll:** sunny spells and blustery showers. Wind W to SW, strong. Max 9C (48F).
☐ **Orkney, Shetland:** cloudy and wet. Wind S to SW, strong. Max 8C (46F).
☐ **N Ireland:** rain clearing to sunny spells and showers. Wind W to SW, fresh. Max 11C (52F).
☐ **Republic of Ireland:** cloudy with patchy drizzle, brighter in afternoon. Wind SW, light. Max 12C (54F).
☐ **Outlook:** cloudy with some rain.

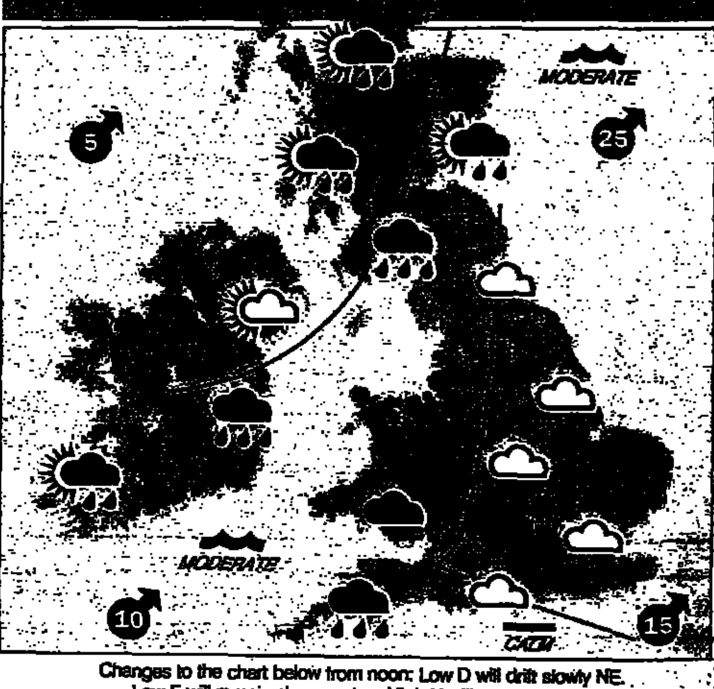
24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gales; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	0.7	0.11	9	48	r	Kinloss	-	0.07	10	50	r
Anglesey	0.8	-	11	52	c	Leeds	3.5	0.01	13	55	c
Aspatria	1.1	0.08	12	54	r	Lerwick	5.4	0.01	5	41	b
Aviemore	0.3	0.18	10	50	r	Leuchars	1.3	0.01	13	55	sh
Belfast	0.5	0.02	13	55	sh	Littlehampton	9.4	0.01	16	61	s
Birmingham	7.3	0.02	14	57	s	London	6.0	0.01	15	59	s
Bognor R	10.2	0.01	16	61	s	Lowestoft	2.6	0.01	13	55	c
Bristol	5.0	0.01	12	54	b	Manchester	-	0.13	12	54	d
Buxton	0.3	0.63	10	50	c	Margate	3.4	0.01	14	57	b
Cardiff	1.3	0.01	12	54	c	Morecambe	1.5	0.13	10	50	r
Clacton	7.6	X	14	57	s	Newcastle	3.6	0.05	13	55	sh
Cleethorpes	4.2	0.01	15	59	s	Newquay	-	0.01	10	50	du
Colwyn Bay	1.8	0.01	14	57	c	Norwich	0.9	0.03	13	55	b
Cromer	3.0	0.04	14	57	b	Oxford	4.4	0.01	15	59	b
Eastbourne	10.3	-	14	57	s	Penzance	0.5	-	12	54	c
Edinburgh	1.0	0.01	13	55	r	Poole	6.0	0.01	16	61	s
Eskdalemuir	0.1	0.28	10	50	sh	Prestatyn	0.3	0.02	13	55	c
Exmouth	5.2	-	12	54	s	Ross on Wye	4.0	-	14	57	s
Fishguard	4.7	0.01	12	54	c	Saunton Sands	2.3	-	12	54	s
Folkestone	5.3	-	15	59	b	Scarborough	1.2	0.07	13	55	r
Glasgow	0.2	0.06	12	54	r	Shrewsbury	4.6	0.01	12	54	r
Guernsey	-	0.01	12	54	c	Skegness	3.8	0.01	14	57	c
Hastings	9.2	-	15	59	s	Southport	X	0.03	10	50	b
Hayling I.	9.7	0.01	15	59	s	Southsea	9.6	-	16	61	s
Herne Bay	4.7	-	15	59	b	Stornoway	-	0.14	10	50	r
Hove	8.8	0.01	14	57	s	Swanage	9.2	-	14	57	s
Hunstanton	4.2	-	12	54	b	Teignmouth	4.1	-	13	55	b
Isle of Man	1.9	0.01	12	54	c	Tenby	6.9	-	13	55	s
Isle of Wight	X	0.01	13	55	s	Tiree	-	0.26	10	50	r
Jersey	0.4	0.02	12	54	c	Torquay	2.9	-	13	55	s

Extremes — highest day max: Poole, Dorset, 16C (61F); lowest day max: Lerwick and Baltasound, Shetland, 5C (41F), highest rain: Buxton, Derbyshire, 0.63in; highest sun: Eastbourne, East Sussex, 10.3hr.

	C	F			C	F			C	F			C	F	
Ajaccio	14	57	c	C'phagn	5	41	c	Majorca	17	63	f	R'nideiray	7	45	r
Akrotiri	16	61	f	Corfu	13	55	f	Malaga	18	64	s	Salzburg	8	46	s
Alex'dria	18	64	c	Dublin	8	46	r	Malta	16	61	s	S Frisco	12	54	s
Algiers	20	68	f	Dubrovnik	12	54	f	Melbourne	17	63	f	Santiago	28	82	s
Amst'dm	6	43	c	Faro	21	70	s	Mexico C	21	70	s	S Paulo	X		
Athens	13	55	s	Florence	10	50	r	Miami	24	75	s	Seoul	3	37	s
Bahrain	26	79	s	Frankfurt	8	46	f	Milan	8	46	f	Singapore	29	84	r
Bangkok	X			Funchal	18	64	f	Montreal	5	41	f	Stockholm	3	37	r
Barbados	29	84	f	Geneva	6	43	r	Moscow	-1	30	sn	Strasb'rg	8	46	c
Barcelona	14	57	c	Gibraltar	16	61	s	Munich	7	45	f	Sydney	24	75	f
Beijing	10	50	s	Helsinki	1	34	c	Nairobi	29	84	f	Tangier	21	70	s
Beirut	13	55	f	Hong K	15	59	c	Naples	12	54	r	Tel Aviv	13	55	c
Belgrade	14	57	f	Innsbruck	9	48	f	N Delhi	25	77	s	Tenerife	21	70	c
Berlin	7	45	c	Istanbul	9	48	s	N York	7	45	s	Tokyo	8	46	s
Bermuda	22	72	f	Jeddah	30	86	s	Nice	15	59	s	Toronto	1	34	s
Biarritz	12	54	f	Jo'burg	X			Oslo	4	39	s	Tunis	20	68	s
Bordeaux	12	54	c	L Palmas	21	70	c	Paris	8	46	c	Valencia	20	68	s
Brussels	7	45	c	Le Touq't	7	45	f	Perth	27	81	c	Vanc'ver	10	50	f
Budapest	12	54	f	Lisbon	17	63	s	Prague	7	45	c	Venice	6	43	r
B Aires	28	82	f	Locarno	8	46	c	Reykjavik	-1	30	sn	Vienna	8	46	c
Cairo	21	70	f	L Angeles	17	63	s	Rhodes	14	57	s	Warsaw	8	46	s
Cape Tn	21	70	s	Luxembg	5	41	r	Rio de J	29	84	f	Wash'ton	10	50	s
Chicago	4	39	s	Luxor	25	77	s	Riyadh	34	93	s				
Cologne	7	45	r	Madrid	16	61	s	Rome	13	55	f				

Temperatures at midday local time on Monday. X = not available



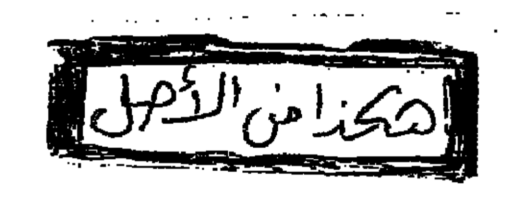
Changes to the chart below from noon: Low D will drift slowly NE. Low E will remain slow moving. High N will remain in situ.



TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Aberdeen	6:09	3.7	18:48	3.7	Liverpool	3:41	8.4	16:17	8.2
Avonmouth	11:53	11.2	-	-	London Bridge	6:19	6.7	18:54	6.3
Belfast	3:46	3.2	16:27	3.1	Lowestoft	1:54	2.4	14:29	2.1
Cardiff	11:39	10.4	-	-	Margate	4:23	4.5	16:59	4.2
Devonport	10:32	4.7	22:58	4.7	Milford Haven	11:06	5.9	23:38	5.7
Dover	3:30	6.2	16:06	5.9	Newquay	10:05	5.9	22:36	5.7
Dublin	4:26	3.7	17:06	3.8	Oban	10:43	3.0	22:42	3.0
Falmouth	10:03	4.5	22:29	4.5	Penzance	9:25	4.8	21:57	4.6
Greenock	4:52	3.3	17:27	3.1	Portland	11:27	1.5	23:44	1.5
Harwich	4:14	3.9	16:46	3.6	Portsmouth	4:00	4.3	16:37	4.2
Holyhead	2:53	4.9	15:33	4.9	Shoreham	3:40	5.7	16:05	5.4
Hull (Albert D)	11:00	7.8	23:33	7.8	Southampton	3:29	4.2	16:08	4.1
Ilfracombe	10:46	7.9	23:12	7.6	Swansea	11:17	11.0	23:48	10.7
King's Lynn	11:07	5.7	23:45	5.4	Tees	8:38	9.4	21:12	9.4
Leith	7:26	4.9	20:02	4.9	Walton-On-Naze	4:11	4.0	16:43	3.7

All times GMT. Heights in metres.





A new Oscar Wilde
Arts, page 38

THE TIMES 2

A new role for Neary
Music, page 40

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

WEDNESDAY MARCH 24 1999

P&O refocusing sees shares cruise higher

BY PAUL ARMSTRONG

INVESTORS added up to £575 million to the value of P&O yesterday after the company unveiled an asset disposal program that is expected to raise more than £2 billion and leave the group to focus on ocean cruises.

P&O said it would sell its investment property; Bovis, the construction management company; and Earls Court Olympia, the exhibition centre.

It also promised to float P&O Nedlloyd, the cargo shipping group in which it has a half share.

P&O and its joint venture partner, the Dutch shipping group Royal Nedlloyd, are yet to decide what stake, if any, they will retain in the listed group. But P&O attributes a book value of £450 million to its share and analysts say it is highly likely that this will be sold as part of the flotation. P&O is also widely expected to offload its development property over the same period.

Analysts said the sale proceeds, excluding any money which will flow from the P&O Nedlloyd float, were expected to total about £2 billion.

But they said the market's renewed enthusiasm for the stock stemmed also from the fact that it would be possible to compare the restructured P&O with America's more highly valued cruise operators.

P&O shares recorded the biggest rise in the FTSE 100 stocks yesterday, closing 45p higher at 860½p in a falling market. This capitalises the company at £5.53 billion. The stock, which has risen from 700p in the past fortnight, hit a high on the day of 905p before profit takers moved in. Investors and analysts have been demanding for at least three years that P&O shed its non-core interests and make itself more transparent.

The sales and flotation are expected to take up to three years to achieve and leave P&O with cruises, ferries and ports as its core divisions.

The restructuring plans were announced after P&O revealed that its pre-tax profit fell 15 per cent to £369 million last year. Adjusted profit was up 14.5 per cent at £416 million before allowing for asset sales.

A final dividend of 18p was declared, making 31.5p for the year compared with 30.5p previously.

Lord Sterling of Plaistow, chairman, said part of the sale proceeds would be invested in new ships and any remaining funds could be returned to shareholders or used to finance a share buyback.

He said the three core businesses accounted for almost two thirds of P&O's operating profit in 1998 and achieved an average return on capital of 15 per cent.

It is undertood that P&O hopes to sell Earls Court Olympia this year, most probably via a leveraged buyout, and float Bovis next year. But the float of P&O Nedlloyd depends on the company achieving an acceptable rate of return.

Commentary, page 27
Tempus, page 28
Earls Court, page 30





Program for success
Making progress in India's Silicon Valley
Page 29

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	6060.5	(-92.3)
Yield	2.55%	
FTSE All Share	2807.76	(-35.28)
Nikkei	16019.10	(-359.68)
New York:		
Dow Jones	9746.76	(-143.75)*
S&P Composite	1272.34	(-24.67)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	4¾%*	(4¾%)
Long bond	95[illegible]*	(95[illegible])
Yield	5.56%*	(5.57%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth interbank	5¼%	(5[illegible]%)
Liffe long gilt future (Jun)	117.15	(117.38)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.6373*	(1.6285)
London:		
$	1.6314	(1.6278)
€	1.4971	(1.4927)
SFr	2.3849	(2.3842)
Yen	192.47	(191.96)
£ Index	103.2	(103.0)

DOLLAR

London:		
€	1.0918*	(1.0916)
SFr	1.4582*	(1.4625)
Yen	117.97*	(118.17)
$ index	107.5	(107.6)

Tokyo close Yen 118.58

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent15-day(Jun)	$13.85	($13.85)

GOLD

London close	$283.55	($284.45)

* denotes midday trading prices

Exchange rates ....Page 35

Inflation low spurs talk of fresh rate cut

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

INFLATION fell to its lowest level in more four years in February, leaving the City confident that the Bank of England will cut rates again next month.

The unexpectedly benign data, however, failed to cheer the stock market which clocked up big losses as Wall Street ended its recent flirtation with the 10,000 level and turned decisively lower.

Underlying inflation, excluding mortgage interest payments, climbed by 0.3 percentage points in February, compared with January, to leave the annual rate down from 2.6 per cent to 2.4 per cent. It was the first time since the Bank of England gained independence that inflation has come in below target.

Headline inflation also fell sharply, from 2.4 per cent to 2.1 per cent — its lowest level since December 1993.

The rapid decline in inflation caught the City and industry by surprise and, after weaker than expected GDP data on Monday, revived calls for the Bank of England to cut rates by up to half a point.

Ian Peters, deputy director-general of the British Chambers of Commerce, said: "The inflation figures confirm our view that inflationary pressures on the economy remain negligible. The Monetary Policy Committee should cut interest rates by a half per cent when it next meets."

The latest decline was welcomed by Gordon Brown. He told the Treasury Select Committee that inflation should remain on target throughout the year. The Chancellor also insisted that recent economic figures suggested that the Government's forecast of growth between 1 per cent and 1.5 per cent was "reasonable".

He said: "The economy is performing better than some people imagined some months ago. And I think you'll find that independent assessments are moving again closer to our figures for next year."

Mr Brown's comments, however, were ignored by the markets with the FTSE 100 closing down 92.3 points at 6,060.5 after a shaky opening on Wall Street and overnight losses in Asia. By lunchtime in New York, the Dow Jones industrial average stood about 174 points lower. The pound also shrugged off the data to close marginally higher against both the euro and the dollar. The fall in inflation was led by continued pressure on goods prices, although services inflation also eased back to 3.3 per cent.

Analysts said that, although inflation will tick up because of Budget changes, the underlying trend is downwards especially as the February result actually included a sharp upward rise in the volatile seasonal food price element.

The Bank is also likely to be reassured by the decline in the headline rate which will help to keep the lid on pay rises.

DeAnne Julius, one of the independent members of the Monetary Policy Committee, last night said that continued growth in the service sector, with its flexible employment practices, is helping to curb some inflationary pressures. Ms Julius told the Manchester Business School that "it is possible that this shift in the composition of the labour force has reduced the rate of unemployment below which inflation starts to accelerate".

LINKS

WEBSITE: http://bankofengland.co.uk/

ANTHONY UPTON

Peter Austen, finance director, and Richard Holland, chief executive of Boosey & Hawkes, the instruments company, reported a fall in underlying profits to £7.1 million (£8.1 million)

Canary could float at 320p

BY CARL MORTISHED

BIDDING for stock in the £2 billion Canary Wharf flotation is pushing the price up to the higher end of the indicative price range of 285p to 350p.

Independent brokers reckon that the price could be struck at about 320p, reflecting some caution about the true value of the tax breaks available to the Docklands property developer.

A spokesman for Canary Wharf said that the bookbuilding would close at midday today, a day earlier than indicated in the prospectus. The striking price will be announced on Thursday and trading is expected to begin on April 1.

It is believed that institutions bid for twice the 167 million shares on offer. However, one broker said that he had encountered resistance to a high premium. "They think the tax breaks are there but don't see why they should pay for them up front."

Canary Wharf's 81-acre office development in London's Docklands is underpinned by massive tax allowances made available in the early 1980s by the Conservative Government as an incentive to redevelop the derelict area. In addition the company has hundreds of millions in tax losses available following Canary Wharf's financial collapse in 1992.

Investors will be considering moves by the Corporation of London to loosen planning controls and allow more skyscrapers in the City. Canary Wharf's troubles stemmed in part from a speculative building boom unleashed by the City in the 1980s.

Nicholson attacks Swallow

BY DOMINIC WALSH

SIR Paul Nicholson, the chairman of Swallow Group, launched an astonishing attack on his fellow directors yesterday following the collapse of the sale of its Vaux Breweries arm and 350 pubs to a management buyout team.

The failure of the MBO, led by Sir Paul's brother, Frank, is expected to lead to the closure of its two breweries in Sunderland and Sheffield with the loss of about 700 jobs — an eventuality Sir Paul, whose family has been involved with Vaux since its inception, had been desperate to avoid.

In an interview with *The Times*, Sir Paul said: "I have told my colleagues that I cannot associate myself with this decision and if they want to take action against me that's up to them." Although he has previously indicated his intention to retire as chairman, he said he had no intention of resigning over this matter.

Swallow in disarray, page 26

Train buff takes regulator's role

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

A HIGH-FLYING City lawyer who is said to be in love with trains is taking a huge pay cut to answer a call from John Prescott, Deputy Prime Minister, to become the new Rail Regulator.

Tom Winsor, 41, a partner in Denton Hall, the solicitors' firm, is to take on the role amid growing ministerial demands for rapid improvement in rail companies' service quality and levels of investment.

Mr Winsor's £165,000 salary as Rail Regulator is far below the £400,000 that he is likely to have earned with Denton Hall advising big companies.

Described as "railway mad" by his friends, Mr Winsor has been involved closely with the privatised railways. He worked in 1993 as chief legal adviser to the Office of the Rail Regulator on reorganisation, restructuring and regulation of the industry. He has also advised several rail companies, including Virgin Rail, while with Denton Hall, which he is leaving immediately. He is to take up his new job in July.

As regulator, his first big task is to set Railtrack's new access charges, which are critical to the level of investment by Railtrack and train operators.

Mr Prescott hailed the appointment as part of his "spring clean" of the rail industry, coming three weeks after Sir Alastair Morton became chairman of the British Railways Board.

Mr Winsor succeeds Chris Bolt, the stop-gap regulator in the job since December.

City Diary, page 29

Silverman gets $64m as Cendant shares plunge

FROM ANDREW BUTCHER IN NEW YORK

HENRY SILVERMAN, chairman and chief executive of Cendant, earned $63.9 million (£39 million) while the company's shareholders watched their stocks plunge after a $500 million accounting fraud was uncovered.

The extraordinary annual pay included $61 million in stock options that Mr Silverman exercised after the company lowered the strike price dramatically to overcome the drop in share prices.

Cendant's compensation committee, which included Brian Mulroney, the former Prime Minister of Canada, granted the repriced stock options and a higher salary for the extra work the fraud had caused Mr Silverman.

Mr Silverman was one of Wall Street's most respected entrepreneurs until last year's scandal. He built Cendant from scratch into a global services conglomerate with interests that span real estate and Avis rental cars. In the UK it owns the NCP car park business and the Green Flag auto recovery service.



Silverman: built Cendant

However, It failed in an attempt to acquire the RAC's motoring division.

After a $14 billion merger with CUC International, a trail of fraudulent revenue figures was found that shattered Cendant's share price and cost Mr Silverman about $750 million in paper losses. Walter Forbes, founder of CUC, was forced out of Cendant after the fraud was revealed.

Mr Mulroney left the compensation committee in January after serving for just five months. He remains on Cendant's board.

Commentary, page 27

BTR Siebe to be ... invensys

BY JASON NISSÉ

WHERE once there was Birmingham Tyre & Rubber — which operated out of Fort Dunlop, overlooking Spaghetti Junction — and Siebe Gorman, maker of diving equipment, there is now invensys.

This is the new name chosen for the combined BTR Siebe, the engineering and electronics giant created by a £11 billion merger last year.

The name — all in lower-case letters — was chosen from 3,000 possibles and a shortlist of five put before the group's board and senior managers.

Lord Marshall of Knightsbridge, invensys chairman, said that the alternatives were "much worse". He said that the name is meant to indicate a combination of invention and systems, showing what the group aims to be about.

The e e cummings element of the new name is meant to "give us a Silicon Valley feel", Lord Marshall said.

According to Simon Jones, of Interbrand Newell & Sorrell, the brand consultants responsible for the name, invensys is "associative — it is not descriptive, but suggestive, of the company and its products".

The former BTR Siebe spent £500,000 coming up with the name, most of the money going to intellectual-property lawyers checking that names Interbrand suggested had not been used in the five product categories and dozens of countries in which the group trades. Shareholders are to vote on the name change next month. Just in case they do not like it, invensys has already registered four alternatives.

RBS makes £140m profit as investor services go to US

By Caroline Merrell
Banking Correspondent

ROYAL BANK of Scotland is selling its investor services subsidiaries to Bank of New York in a deal that values the businesses at about £500 million.

The sale will give rise to a £140 million profit for Royal Bank. Under the terms of the transaction, Bank of New York will buy the whole of RBS Trust Bank, and 30 per cent of the bank's offshore equivalent. Bank of New York is to pay £29 million for the stake in the offshore company. Royal Bank of Scotland International Security Services Holdings.

Mercury Asset Management will also benefit from the deal because it owns 30 per cent of the RBS Trust Bank.

A Royal Bank spokesman said that it had sold because investor services were no longer deemed central to its strategy. Bank of New York specialises in offering investor services and recently bought the custody business of Coutts and JP Morgan. It is now the world's largest custodian, with $5.9 trillion (£3.64 trillion) of assets administered worldwide.

Bank of New York is paying in a mixture of cash and loan notes to be agreed between the parties. Royal Bank said that £200 million of the payment would be deferred, and be payable in three equal instalments from 2000. Further payment may be due in 2000 and 2001 under an earn-out agreement. Both parties refused to comment on the nature of the agreement, but a Royal Bank spokesman said that payment would be related to the fee income generated by RBS Trust Bank. Mercury, Legal & General and Woolwich all use its services.

Sir George Mathewson, Royal Bank's chief executive, said: "Following a strategic review, we concluded that Trust Bank would be better positioned as a subsidiary of a bank for whom the provision of administration services to investors, issuers and intermediaries is a core business."

The transaction will also strengthen Royal Bank's balance sheet, adding 0.3 per cent to its tier one capital ratio and 0.4 per cent to total capital ratios.

Bank of New York said it planned to keep Trust Bank's 1,300 staff. Trust Bank was established in 1997 when Royal Bank bought the custody and investor services division and related treasury and banking business of SG Warburg.

Swallow deal collapses at eleventh hour

By Dominic Walsh

SWALLOW GROUP, the northeast hotel and pub operator, was in disarray last night after the last-minute collapse of a management buyout of its two breweries and a package of 350 tenanted pubs.

The estimated £65 million deal was to have ushered a new dawn for the group, formerly known as Vaux, as it sought to put behind it a lacklustre recent performance to focus on its higher growth Swallow Hotels chain and managed pubs.

The collapse of the deal centred on the terms of future drinks supply agreements between the two parties. Peter Catesby, chief executive, said that the MBO team, backed by Alchemy Partners, had insisted on a five-year distribution tie. "We couldn't tie ourselves for more than two years," he said.

Swallow is understood to believe that, under Alchemy's terms, the deal would have been worth £14 million less than under its own proposals. But Sir Paul Nicholson, Swallow's chairman, disagreed with the rest of his board, saying it was "not a difference to justify putting 700 people out of work".

The company is now expected to offer some 250 of the pubs to the likes of Mansfield Brewery and Pubmaster, resulting in the closure of the breweries. Ironically, this was the option favoured by Martin Grant, the former chief executive, and Neal Gossage, finance director, who were both dismissed last month after secretly telling institutional investors of their disagreement with the board's decision to give the MBO team a four-week period of exclusivity.

Sir Paul yesterday vowed to try to persuade the board to accept the MBO team's offer. Eric Walters, a partner at Alchemy, said: "We are still interested."

Goeran Lindahl, chairman of ABB Alstom Power, left, shakes hands with Pierre Bilger, centre, and Claude Darmon

ABB-Alstom power deal

By Carl Mortished, International Business Editor

ASEA Brown Boveri and Alstom have seized the baton of world leadership in power generation from America's General Electric by combining their respective turbine businesses into a joint venture with sales of €9.9 billion (£6.6 billion).

ABB, the Swiss/Swedish engineering group and France's Alstom yesterday agreed to create a 50/50 joint company, ABB Alstom Power. It will include the Alstom energy businesses with the exception of its heavy-duty gas turbine which is being sold to GE for $910 million (£562 million). ABB will inject all of its power generation units into the joint venture for cutthroat competition. Alstom save the nuclear activities and service-related businesses.

The transaction will include a cash payment by Alstom to ABB of €1.4 billion to account for the larger contribution of ABB to the venture. Alstom said that improvements in efficiency and productivity as well as economies of scale would yield about €400 million in savings within three to four years.

The deal propels Alstom and its partner into the top position in an industry known for cutthroat competition. Alstom shares gained 7 per cent as the market greeted the news that the company's weakness had been turned into a potential strength.

Alstom was relegated to fifth place in the power league when Siemens took over the power generation arm of Westinghouse last year for DM1.2 billion. The new company will boast almost €10 billion in sales, well ahead of GE, even after its purchase of the Alstom heavy-duty gas turbine operation. Pierre Bilger, Alstom's chairman, said: "The joint company will be a strong R&D powerhouse." Pro-forma joint R&D spend for the venture will be €630 million.

The new company will be led by Claude Darmon, deputy chief executive of Alstom. Analysts yesterday speculated that the deal may be a prelude to a complete exit from power generation by ABB.

IPE enters talks that could halt merger

By Carl Mortished

THE International Petroleum Exchange is in talks with a group of energy companies over a £25 million investment in the exchange that could scupper the current merger talks with its New York rival, Nymex.

The IPE would not identify the potential investors but described them as "large and well-respected companies involved in the European energy business". The investors are likely to include power generators and other electricity companies, keen to see IPE develop a futures market in electricity. The IPE confirmed that the investors were not currently members of the exchange which excludes leading oil companies, such as Shell and BP.

Lynton Jones, chief executive of IPE, said that some members wanted the organisation to remain independent and pursue alternatives to an outright sale to Nymex. The investment proposal would entail the sale of up to 70 per cent of IPE to several energy companies with no single investor taking more than 15 per cent.

He explained that the IPE was undercapitalised because of its status as a mutual.

A board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday next week to consider the deal and the current talks with Nymex.

Croda to shut smaller plants

By Paul Durman

CRODA International, the chemicals company, is planning to close several of its smaller plants in an effort to save £4 million a year.

Weak demand in the UK and the strength of sterling reduced Croda's pre-tax profits last year from £41.1 million to £32 million — even before an £18 million exceptional loss on three disposals.

The sale of a paints business, an own-label soap company and an adhesives firm has increased the group's focus on oil-based chemicals used in personal care, pharmaceutical and nutrition products and industrial chemicals used in paints, inks and packaging.

Barbara Richmond, finance director, would not say how many of Croda's 1,200 UK employees would lose their jobs. She said Croda regards about half of its 15 manufacturing plants as small. The company has already begun consolidating production in the US and France.

The smaller industrial chemicals division suffered most last year, with profits falling 28 per cent to £9 million on slightly lower sales of £119.2 million.

A second interim dividend of 6.8p maintains the total payment at 10.35p.

Tyson helps lift Hay & Robertson

By Chris Ayres

MIKE TYSON and Liam Gallagher helped profits to rise 34 per cent to £2.3 million last year at Hay & Robertson, owner of the Kangol clothing brand favoured by the boxer and Oasis singer.

The company, which is run by Lance Yates — an adviser to the Rolling Stones on merchandising — also owns the rights to the Admiral and England/Three Lions clothing brands. Yesterday, H&R reported a 13 per cent rise in full-year sales to £20.6 million, and a 39 per cent rise in earnings per share to 7.8p. A final dividend of 0.5p, up 66 per cent, will be paid on May 21.

During the year H&R gained product endorsements from big-name footballers such as David Ginola and David Seaman. However, Mr Yates said that the company was eager to distance itself from the troubled replica football shirts market, and instead emphasise its focus on branded leisurewear. Shares in H&R fell 4p to 101.5p yesterday.

Tempus, page 28

Opec ministers sign deal in record time

OIL prices held steady at about $13.74 per barrel of benchmark Brent crude after the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries ratified in record time an agreement to take two million barrels of oil a day off the market for the next year. Ministers meeting in Vienna yesterday took less than half an hour to sign the deal reached informally in The Hague earlier this month. The final communiqué issued after the meeting said: "Member countries strongly emphasised their firm commitment to this agreement . . . and stressed their intention to ensure full compliance."

Opec agreed two rounds of cuts totalling some three million barrels a day last year, but they were not fully implemented and failed to boost prices from historic low levels, causing severe economic problems to oil-dependent economies. Yesterday's communiqué said that Opec and non-Opec oil producers had agreed to cut output by 2.1 million barrels per day for a year from April 1, with cuts of slightly more than 1.7 million barrels a day coming from ten Opec members. Four non-OPEC countries — Russia, Mexico, Oman and Norway — will cut exports by 400,000 barrels a day between them.

LVMH confirms bid

LVMH yesterday confirmed its bid for 100 per cent of Gucci, after an enabling decision by the Amsterdam Court of Appeal. LVMH said it had notified the Gucci board of its decision and wished to enter "as soon as possible" into negotiations. LVMH did not reveal the value of its bid, in line with Dutch merger regulations which provide for a seven-day delay between formal notification of an offer and official announcement of the price. On Monday the Amsterdam court ordered Gucci to enter into negotiations with LVMH.

Stakeholder concerns

STAKEHOLDER pensions, the centrepiece of the Government's aim to reform retirement savings, are in danger of missing their target a new report has found. More than two thirds of people earning between £9,000 and £18,500 do not have a stable pattern of employment and have no savings, according to the Institute for Fiscal Studies. The IFS argues such people should rely on the state second pension, which the Government hopes will replace Serps, or by contributing to an individual savings account (Isa), to be launched next month.

Yahoo! link for HMV

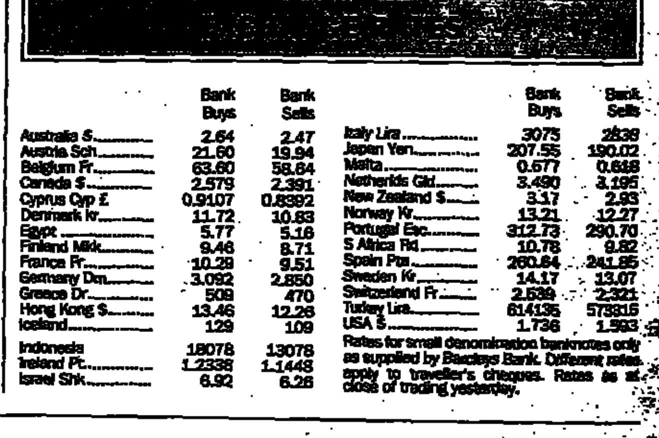
HMV, the British music retailer, has tackled the threat from Internet stores such as Amazon.com head-on by launching a free Internet service in partnership with Yahoo, the web directory. The company will distribute free CD-Roms throughout its 107 British stores which, when installed in a personal computer, will provide free Internet access, free e-mail, and a direct link to HMV's online music store. The online store will sell heavily discounted CDs, such as Blur's 13 for £9.99.

IMI in £16m disposal

IMI, the engineering group, has agreed to sell the aerospace businesses of IMI Marston, a subsidiary, to Hamilton Standard, a subsidiary of America's United Technologies Corporation, for £16.6 million. The businesses are based at Fordhouses, near Wolverhampton, and employ nearly 260 people in the manufacture of heat exchangers, tubes, couplings and manifolds for the aerospace industry. In 1998 the businesses earned operating profits of £1.7 million on sales of £19 million. IMI shares fell 2¼p to 270p yesterday.

Phytopharm royalties

PHYTOPHARM, the company seeking to develop medicines from plants, has increased the level of royalties that it hopes to receive from its potential osteoarthritis drug. This is the result of Phytopharm agreeing to take on development costs that were to be borne by Phytochemindo, its cash-strapped Indonesian partner. Preliminary results from a phase II trial of P54 in about 190 osteoarthritis patients are expected to be published next month. Phytopharm is also testing P54 as an anti-cancer agent.



	Bank Buys	Bank Sells		Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.64	2.47	Italy Lira	3075	2839
Austria Sch	21.60	19.94	Japan Yen	207.55	190.02
Belgium Fr	63.60	58.64	Malta	0.677	0.618
Canada $	2.579	2.391	Netherlds Gld	3.490	3.195
Cyprus Cyp £	0.9107	0.8392	New Zealand $	3.17	2.93
Denmark Kr	11.72	10.83	Norway Kr	13.21	12.27
Egypt	5.77	5.16	Portugal Esc	312.73	290.70
Finland Mkk	9.46	8.71	S Africa Rd	10.78	9.82
France Fr	10.29	9.51	Spain Pta	260.64	241.85
Germany Dm	3.092	2.850	Sweden Kr	14.17	13.07
Greece Dr	509	470	Switzerland Fr	2.539	2.321
Hong Kong $	13.46	12.26	Turkey Lira	614135	573316
Iceland	129	109	USA $	1.736	1.593
Indonesia	18078	13078			
Ireland Pt	1.2338	1.1448			
Israel Shk	6.92	6.26			

Rates for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

Bridgeman opens up a can of beans



COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

Britain's supermarket operators are steeled for the worst. By the end of this week, they will have received official confirmation that the Office of Fair Trading is to subject their activities to the full scrutiny of a Monopolies Commission inquiry. The tedium of a protracted investigation is depressing enough for the grocers but what they really fear is that the result might be an attempt to weight the odds unfairly against the current winners.

Their suspicion is that, somewhere in Government, an idea is already being formulated to try to alter the planning process so that there would be positive discrimination against those stores that currently dominate the market. It would be a hugely controversial move but it would answer the question that is now beginning to touble some people at the Treasury: "Having said that British consumers are being forced to pay too much for their groceries, what are we going to do about it?"

A Monopolies Commission inquiry provides a convenient breathing space. The OFT's John Bridgeman is, of course, his own man but his decision to take a closer look at the grocers coincided with the consumers' friend, Gordon Brown, voicing his concerns over shop prices. Whatever the results of the OFT's protracted investigations, a clean bill of health for the industry was not likely to have gone down well at Number 11. But what is to happen when the inquiry ends? The MMC may find that supplier discounts are not being passed on to consumers, but who is to determine the true cost of selling a can of baked beans?. New Labour will surely not want to venture into a system where profit margins are dictated: that would hardly go down well with all those who have Tesco shares tucked into their Peps and pension funds.

No, this new Labour Government has trumpeted the merits of competition to bring down prices and increase productivity. What it would like to see is a bit more competition for grocery sales. Within the M25, 80 per cent of superstores belong to Tesco or Sainsbury. Where are the Walmarts or French hypermarkets that would drive prices down?

When Gordon Brown asked McKinsey to take a look at the industry, the consultants were rather enthusiastic about the skills of British grocers but berated the regulatory system, and planning in particular, as the cause of high prices. The Treasury has, apparently, been pondering on this and come up with the idea that, when judging planning applications, local authorities would be asked to bear in mind consumer choice. This might be interpreted as planners being asked to take a more generous view of applications coming for grocers other than Tesco or Sainsbury. The Department of the Environment has not yet embraced this attempt to distort the free market but there is time. And remember, something has to happen or consumers will feel let down.

Still a recession for manufacturers

The Chancellor's desire to be seen in the best light explains his somewhat inconsistent approach to accounting. For the purposes of his recent Budget, tax relief that he took away from us did not feature in the tax account, but tax credits that he did dole out were very much to be included in the sums. He took the advice of the government statisticians on the latter choice but not the former.

The result of this pick and mix approach was a somewhat flattering view of the impact of his Budget tax changes. It meant that he was able to pose for post-speech photographs with the glow of a man who has just generously dispensed £4.5 billion to the people instead of showing the mean features of a Chancellor who could barely bring himself to let go of £250 million. Here is a man who understands what candlelight can do for a complexion.

But his advisers should have warned him that cosmetics and candlelight confer only transitory benefits. The misleading treatment of Miras which has now been unmasked is only the latest deception to emerge from a Budget speech which had enough sins of omission to bore a confessor.

The Chancellor should have been straight with his public and rejoiced in delivering a truly prudent budget. While the economists are increasingly of the view that the country may escape the worst of recession, the soft landing is not yet assured. The figures for the last quarter of last year that emerged earlier this week showed a gloomier picture than most economists had expected, with negligible growth during those months. Whatever the City optimists say, there are many manufacturers who contend that if it feels like a recession, as it does to them, then that is what it is.

They would forgive the Chancellor for robbing them of their Miras and married couple's allowance if the Bank of England could provide them with another cut in interest rates. That looks increasingly likely, after yesterday's news that inflation is at its lowest since the Bank gained its independence of government. When the Monetary Policy Committee meets next month, the pressure for a cut will be strong. The manufacturers would like a half a point straight away but the MPC could feel that a quarter now with the option of another later would be more approporiate.

They will be as cautious as the Chancellor was with his Budget. But he has another two Budgets before the next election.

Sterling floats idea for a shake-up

Lord Sterling of Plaistow was in ebullient mood as he unveiled his plans to relaunch the good ship P&O as a glamorous, focused business. When the reshaped company heads for a quote on the New York Stock Exchange, as it surely will, its luxury cruise business should guarantee an enthusiastic following among bermuda-clad investors.

But the restructuring of the business is not Lord Sterling's only project. He would like to resurrect the British shipping industry, which means persuading the Government to introduce a less hostile tax regime.

This ace lobbyist knrws his way around Whitehall as was apparent with the Budget day revelation that the Treasury was minded to take up his suggestion of a tonnage tax. The committee that has been set up to investigate the possible implications is not likely to be the usual long-winded stalling exercise: it consists of just one man, Lord Alexander of Weedon.

No doubt the lawyer turned banker is now approaching the shipping industry with a totally open mind but Lord Sterling is optimistic that before very long he may be able to sail his liners back to British bases, under the British flag. The Deputy Prime Minister, former ships steward John Prescott, is enthusiastic.

Whether the dawning of a new tonnage tax will be celebrated in duty free champagne depends on the outcome of a debate in Berlin this weekend. Lord S has not given up hope on this one either.

Silverman lining

AMERICAN business pays by results. So Henry Silverman, boss of (des)Cendant, had his 1998 bonus cut by half when the group was knocked sideways by a $500 million accounting fraud in the company he merged with. This left a salary plus bonus of only $2.8 million. Fortunately, rebasing his share options after the troubles allowed him to make a fast buck that our own fat cats could scarcely dream of. Clearly not payment by results: more a prize for not being a fraudster. Rarely has honesty paid so well.

Customers enthusiastic over Iceland GM stance

By Robert Cole, City Correspondent

ICELAND, the frozen food retailer, is reaping big rewards from its determined stance against genetically modified food, according to Malcolm Walker, the chairman and chief executive.

Mr Walker said that he believes thousands of new customers are shopping at Iceland because of the company's policy of minimising the amount of GM foodstuffs sold in its shops.

At yesterday's presentation of the company's annual results, it displayed some of what it claims to be hundreds of letters from customers applauding the policy. One correspondent, Anna Turnbull Walker of Hythe, Kent, wrote: "Although I am a traditional Sainsbury's/Tesco shopper I have recently started using Iceland because of your splendid attitude towards GM food."

Helped by such consumer enthusisam, Iceland reported 10 per cent increases in both sales and underlying profits for the year to January 2. The group said that an expanding home delivery inititative fuelled the rise.

In the 11 weeks of the new year, sales grew by 10 per cent, Iceland said. This advance is some way ahead of the growth generated by supermarket rivals, although sales in the comparable period of 1998 sales grew 16 per cent.

The company said that the home delivery service had begun in time for the start of 1998, and that the initial rise in sales activity had slowed by the first quarter of 1999.

Mr Walker said that sales picked up markedly towards the end of the current-year trading period. He attributed the improvement to the airing of new advertisements.

The home delivery service is available nationally and is currently free. However Mr Walker said it was given a trial to the levy of a £1 delivery charge.

The average value of spending per Iceland customer has risen from £6 to £9 over the past two years. The group said that the much larger average size of shopping bill for goods delivered to homes accounts for much of the increase. The average shopping bill for home-delivered orders is £42.

Iceland's annual pre-tax profits rose 27 per cent to £55 million, up from £43.5 million. However, the figures were flattered by the absence of £7 million of exceptional items which depressed previous year profits. The final dividend is 4p making a total for the year of 5.8p, 7.4 per cent up on last time.

ANDRE CAMARA



Malcolm Walker, bottom, with Andrew Pritchard and Russell Ford

ITC blocks BSkyB's appeal

THE Independent Television Commission yesterday blocked attempts by BSkyB to force the ITV companies to make their new channel, ITV2, available on digital satellite (Raymond Snoddy writes).

BSkyB, in which News International, owner of *The Times*, has a 40 per cent stake, appealed to the ITC that ITV's failure to supply ITV2 was anti-competitive.

The Commission, however, decided that there were no grounds for forcing the ITV companies to make the channel available. The two largest ITV companies, Granada and Carlton, own ONdigital, the main commercial digital terrestrial service.

Granada buys 18.6% of SMG

By Raymond Snoddy, Media Editor

GRANADA GROUP yesterday put down a marker for an eventual takeover of Scottish Media Group by buying 18.6 per cent of the company from Mirror Group for £110.3 million.

Although Granada said it had "no present intention" of making an offer for the whole of SMG unless someone else makes a bid or builds a stake of 15 per cent or more, the deal follows a familar pattern.

In the case of both London Weekend and Yorkshire-Tyne Tees Television, Granada first built up stakes before later moving to buy the companies outright. If it were to take out SMG — which has the ITV licences north of the border — Granada would, with the exception of tiny Border TV, control all the ITV franchises from John O'Groats down to the Midlands.

The deal shuts out Carlton Communications, which was also interested in the Mirror stake, from Scotland. It is believed that CanWest, the Canadian international broadcaster, and CLT-Ufa, the Bertelsmann-owned broadcaster, were also interested.

Mirror says it sold the SMG stake to concentrate on its newspaper interests. The 915p a share deal represented an 8.5 per cent premium to SMG's closing price on Monday and a £47 million profit on the purchase of SMG's shares in 1994 and 1995.

Tempus, page 28

Approach lifts Jarvis shares

SHARES in Jarvis Hotels jumped 26½p to 158½p yesterday after the group announced receiving a "highly tentative" bid approach (Dominic Walsh writes).

There was instant speculation that Jarvis may be seeking to take itself private, but analysts said that the wording of its statement suggested an outside approach from the likes of Accor of France or Starwood Hotels of the US.

Jarvis, which has 63 hotels, floated at 175p in 1996, but investors' coolness to three-star hotels depressed its shares. Analysts said a 160p offer, valuing Jarvis at £280 million, would be enough to clinch a deal.

Cautious debut for Morse Holdings

By Chris Ayres

SHARES of Morse Holding, the computer reseller and services company, made their stock market debut at 250p yesterday, the very bottom of the suggested pricing range, while its venture capitalist backers significantly scaled back the number of shares offered to the market.

The uncertain debut reflects growing unease in the City about the prospects of the increasingly volatile information technology sector. Many analysts predict a correction later this year caused by blue chip companies delaying IT projects until after the millennium. However, Morse yesterday insisted that "most of our customers have rising budgets".

There are also worries that a recent slowdown in the US computer industry will eventually hit resellers such as Morse and downmarket rivals Computacenter and Compel.

Morse's shares suffered a disappointing first day of trading, rising only 2p to 152p. This valued the shares at 23 times historic earnings — low for the IT sector overall, but relatively high for a computer reseller. The stake held by Duncan McIntyre, Morse's chief executive, is valued at £30.5 million.

Venture capitalist shareholders in Morse include 3i and PPM Ventures, which offered 58 million of their shares to the market, instead of the planned 88 million. However, Morse still managed to raise about £60 million from new shares. Mr McIntyre reduced his personal stake in Morse from 10 per cent to 7.2 per cent.





Bitter aftertaste in City at Scottish & Newcastle

SCOTTISH & NEWCASTLE held all the appeal of a flat pint of bitter as its share price fell 19½p to 675p following yet another profits downgrade.

This time BT Alex Brown, the broker, has cut its profit estimate for the year from £414 million to £402 million and for next year by £18 million to £430 million. Last year the group made profits of £422 million and at the halfway stage recorded a drop of 4.5 per cent to £214.5 million as beer volume dropped 3 per cent.

BTAB blames flat beer sales and lower profits from Center Parcs, because of the cost of upgrading three of its eight sites in the Benelux countries.

Beer sales proved difficult over Christmas and conditions continue to worsen. This has led to fears that the group is on the verge of issuing a profits warning. Concerns about trading have been reflected in the share price which has underperformed by 25 per cent during the past year having tumbled from a peak of 945p.

Fresh opening losses on Wall Street left London licking its wounds. The FTSE 100 index finished 92.3 down at 6,060.5 as the Dow Jones industrial average kicked in with an opening fall of 200 points. The FTSE 250 index shed 12.8 at 5,475.6 as turnover reached 1.15 billion shares.

Jarvis Hotels jumped 26½p to 158½p on news of a bid approach. Speculators say the bidder is Accor of France, which is ready to offer between 160p and 200p a share. That would value the hotel chain at between £280 million and £352 million.

But management buyout talks at **Swallow Group**, which used to be known as Vaux Group, have been terminated. The shares retreated just 10½p to 258½p. Analysts say the company is still vulnerable to a takeover from the likes of **Whitbread**, 1½p firmer at 962p, and possibly **Ladbroke**, unchanged at 285p.

Speculative support lifted **Capital Corporation** 5p to 66½p with the supporters claiming that the London casino operator, may soon find itself on the receiving end of yet another bid approach. The group has already rejected an offer from rival **London Clubs**, down 2p to 167p, and recently announced it had also rejected other approaches. Almost two million shares changed hands including several big lines of 150,000 at 57p, 125,000 at 64p, 200,000 at 64p and 222,500 at 65½p.

They have been selling technology stocks this week on Wall Street. Yesterday it spilled over into London with **Easynet Group**, down 31p to 369p, **Misys**, 26p to 624p and **Zergo Holdings**, 45p to 780p.

Takeover favourite **Pilkington** firmed 2p to 65½p as Credit Suisse First Boston, the broker, initiated coverage of the shares with a "hold" recommendation. **ED&F Man** fell 13p to 270½p as several large lines of stock came on offer at a discount to the ruling price. They included 650,000 shares at 268p and a further 500,000 at 268p.

Alexon, which reported a drop in profits on Monday and remains cautious about prospects, fell 8p to 188½p. Patrick Cooper, a director, has sold 15,000 shares at 197p reducing his holding to 60,046.

Thorntons held steady at 230½p as Michael Thornton, deputy chairman, unloaded 250,000 shares at 231p. It reduces his beneficial holding to 1.87 million shares, or 2.83 per cent.

Greycoat, fighting off a bid from **Delancey**, rose 5½p to 205½p. That compared with the all-paper offer from Delancey, up 1p to 98½p, now worth 193p, ex the dividend. **Westminster Health Care** firmed another 3½p to 303½p in the wake of Monday's bid approach. Word is an offer of 350p a share may be on the way valuing the company at £232 million.

Leicester City touched 55p before ending the day 4p better at 45½p. The Premier League football club received a bid approach earlier this year and that was followed by a local press report on February 17, also claiming the club had received an approach. But Leicester says that since that date no formal approaches have been made.

In after hours trading it emerged that Julian Richer has bought 1.1 million shares, or 7.69 per cent, in **Thomas French**, unchanged at 20½p. At least one million of the shares were bought from Undervalued Asset Trust.

Shares of **Morse**, the computer services group, begun trading on the grey market following a placing by Merrill Lynch, the broker, at 250p. The price touched 252½p before closing at 252p as 1.6 million shares were traded.

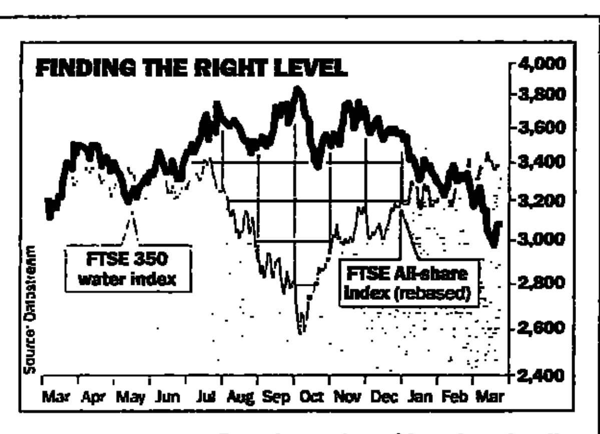
☐ **GILT-EDGED:** Shorter-dated issues drew encouragement from the benign inflation numbers that could provide scope for another cut in interest rates. But longer-dated issues lost ground reflecting falls among European bonds.

In the futures pit, the June series of the long gilt fell 23p to £117.15 as 21,000 contracts were traded. In longs, Treasury 8 per cent 2021 fell 40p to £147.05, while at the shorter end Treasury 7 per cent 2002 eased 1p to £107.73.

☐ **NEW YORK:** US shares were sharply lower as worries about corporate profits walloped Wall Street. At midday the Dow Jones industrial average was down 143.75 points to 9,746.76.



Martin O'Neill, right, manager of Leicester City, with John Robertson, his assistant. Rumours of a bid saw shares add 4p



THE water sector flowed against the downward force of the rest of the market helped by some encouraging words from one leading broker.

Credit Lyonnais Securities, the broker, says the sector has been oversold and is urging clients to take advantage of recent weakness.

Angela Whelan, who follows the water companies for Credit Lyonnais, says they are undervalued and that worries about price cuts have been overdone by the City.

Top of her shopping list is Pennon Group, up 17p to 956p, Yorkshire Water, 30½p better at 457p, and Thames, down 21½p to 936p.

Anglia Water is also seen as worthy of mention with the price adding 5p to 745p, despite a move by Ms Whelan to trim her profit forecasts for the current year and 2000.

There have been worries about Anglia's level of profitability, but the dividend remains covered despite fears that it may have to be cut.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):

Dow Jones	9746.76 (-143.75)
S&P Composite	1272.34 (-24.67)

Tokyo:

Nikkei Average	16019.10 (-359.68)

Hong Kong:

Hang Seng	11041.01 (-66.23)

Amsterdam:

AEX Index	532.68 (-11.59)

Sydney:

AO	2987.6 (+2.1)

Frankfurt:

DAX	4915.03 (-112.08)

Singapore:

Straits	1492.87 (-4.81)

Brussels:

BEL20	3214.60 (-76.22)

Paris:

CAC-40	4079.47 (-117.58)

Zurich:

SMI Index	7013.6 (-140.0)

London:

FT 30	3703.3 (-34.7)
FTSE 100	6060.5 (-92.3)
FTSE 250	5475.6 (-12.8)
FTSE 350	2897.1 (-38.0)
FTSE Eurotop 100	2838.33 (-56.99)
FTSE All-Share	2807.76 (-35.28)
FTSE Non Financials	2844.96 (-28.97)
FTSE Fixed Interest	154.37 (-0.15)
FTSE Govt Secs	115.68 (-0.29)
Bargains	92276
SEAQ Volume	1157.1m
US$	1.6312 (+0.0033)
Euro	0.6580 (-0.0019)
£:SDR	1.1904
Exchange Index	103.2 (+0.2)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
RPI	163.7 Feb (2.1%) Jan 1987 = 100
RPIX	162.3 Feb (2.4%) Jan 1987 = 100

RECENT ISSUES

Axon Group	272½		...
BGI Endowment III	100		...
Enhanced Zero Trust	100¼	+	½
Gander Properties	7½		...
Gartmore High Income	104		...
Gartmore Zero Div Pf	106½		...
Govett Enhanced Dv Pf	100½	−	¾
Govett Enhanced Inc	95	−	½
Jupiter En Zero Dv Pf	106¾		...
Jupiter Enhanced Inc	100		...
Luminar Warrants	250		...
M Currie Cap Return	74½	+	2½
M Currie Portfolio	83	−	2½
Morse Holdings	252		...
Murray Smlr Mkts B Uts	188½		...
Murray Smlr Mkts Prf	101¾	−	¼
Murray Smlr Mkts Units	187½	−	½
NBA Quantum	110		...
Sports Internet	129½	+	4
Synstar	143½	−	½

RIGHTS ISSUES

First Tech Cnv Prf n/p (320)	22½	+	1
Oxford Biomedica n/p (15)	4¾	−	¼
Waste Recycling n/p (406)	67½		...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Stock	Close	Chng	Chng%
Fitch	59	+ 21¼	+ 56.2
Jarvis Hotels	158½	+ 26½	+ 20.0
Central Pacific	278	+ 32¾	+ 13.3
Friendly Hotels	127½	+ 15	+ 13.3
Peel	645	+ 67½	+ 11.6
Courts Furnish	307½	+ 25	+ 8.8
Caird Gp	297½	+ 22½	+ 8.1
Newsquest	397½	+ 30	+ 8.1
Amey	632½	+ 42½	+ 7.2
Yorkshire	457	+ 30½	+ 7.1
ALSTOM	1600	+ 103½	+ 6.8
Moorepay	285	+ 17½	+ 6.5
Estates Agency	450	+ 25	+ 5.8
P & O Dfd	860½	+ 45	+ 5.5
Ascot	265	+ 12½	+ 4.9
Pillar Prop	306½	+ 12½	+ 4.2
Somerfield	334½	+ 13	+ 4.0
TeleWest	263¼	+ 10	+ 3.9
Autologic	342½	+ 12½	+ 3.7
Br Land	518	+ 18	+ 3.6

FALLS:

Stock	Close	Chng	Chng%
Capital Inds	36½	− 13½	− 27.0
Easynet	369	− 31	− 7.7
Ranger	238	− 18½	− 7.2
Shield Diag	400	− 30	− 6.9
Pegasus	234	− 17½	− 6.9

TEMPUS

P&O shares buoyant

IT will take P&O three years to complete its great garage sale. The fact that the stock market has already got so animated about the break up partly reflects the depth of ill-feeling towards the company's current structure. Much of the erratic recent share price performance can be attributed to P&O's odd collection of assets, and the subsequent lack of transparency and predictability to earnings. It is hard to find convincing synergy between construction management, exhibition centres and cruise liners.

But the exuberance of the P&O share price performance yesterday — on a day when the FTSE 100 slid nearly 100 points — also shows that good potential lies in what is left behind. It is easier to comprehend P&O's focus on holiday cruises, ferries and ports. It is also easier to see the promise lurking in these activities.

P&O says that any money invested in new cruise ships earns a 15 per cent return from day one. Its biggest market, Americans aged 50 to 59, will have doubled in size between 1990 to 2010. Moreover, P&O says cruising accounts for just 5 per cent of the US vacation market. There is room to grow.

The £2 billion-plus cash likely to flow from the disposals will relieve the group's debt position, and help investment in this most famous cruising brand. It may also finance a programme of returning capital to shareholders.

However, a re-rating of P&O in line with US cruise operators offers the best upside for the shares. P&O stock trades on a prospective earnings multiple of 16 times. New York-listed rivals' shares change hands at 25 times.

The existence of this substantial discount makes P&O shares a buy.

Granada/SMG

THE shares of Scottish Media Group gave a joyous 22p jump yesterday as Granada gobbled up the 18.6 per cent stake in the company off loaded by in-transition Mirror Group. It was entirely rational to mark the shares up. After all, there is now a big media beast not just stalking SMG, but inside the tent. And do not forget that another 20 per cent of SMG could be prised loose from Flextech if the price is right.

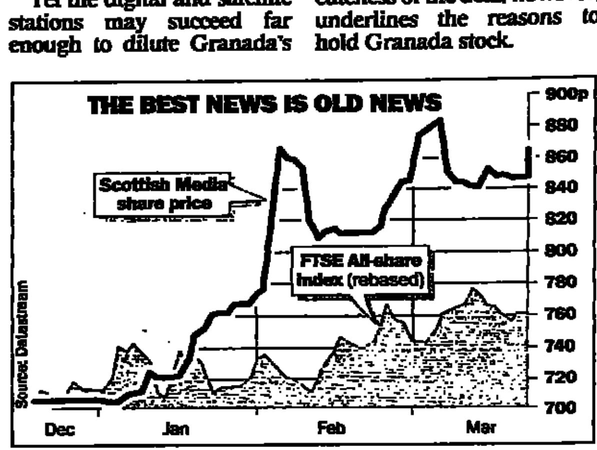
So much is obvious. But it would be dangerous to assume that Granada will pounce for the remainder of SMG anytime soon. It is more likely that Granada has bought the stake for much cannier strategic reasons.

First, it keeps SMG from the clutches of arch-rival Carlton Communications. Secondly, the stake forms a wonderful insurance policy aginst the rise of rival broadcasters.

At present it would be tricky, although not impossible, for Granada to take control of SMG. Granada is already close to the regulatory limits on television advertising revenue market shares.

Yet the digital and satellite stations may succeed far enough to dilute Granada's share of advertising. If they do Granada can turn on the SMG tap to protect its position. If they don't, Granada still has a valuable asset.

SMG shares have had a good 1999 on the back of takeover hopes but the best, for the moment, is behind it. The cuteness of the deal, however, underlines the reasons to hold Granada stock.



Delta

DELTA had an exhausting 1998, truly an *annus horribilis*. The wounds caused by the retreat from cables were deep. More than 4,000 jobs were lost in restructuring the group; the collapse in Far Eastern export markets whipped vital support away from the business just as it was most vulnerable; and adverse currency movements rubbed salt into the sores.

The dismal year ended with the annual dividend being cut by half.

Delta will continue to struggle, racking up more exceptional restructuring charges this year. But light, albeit far off and dim, is beginning to appear at the end of this unpleasant tunnel.

It is perhaps only small recompense for long-term investors but in its industrial services division, Delta has a growth story. It supplies battery makers with electrolytic manganese dioxide. A purchase in Australia made it number one in this field worldwide, with 20 per cent of the market. The division's galvanising business has also been growing strongly in the Antipodes.

The plumbing and electrical division are less promising from a growth perspective, but effiency gains could bolster future profitability.

Having come this far, hold.

Hay & Robertson

YOU can put the 34 per cent rise in profits at Hay & Robertson, the merchandising group, down to the fashion tastes of Liam Gallagher. Or partly at least.

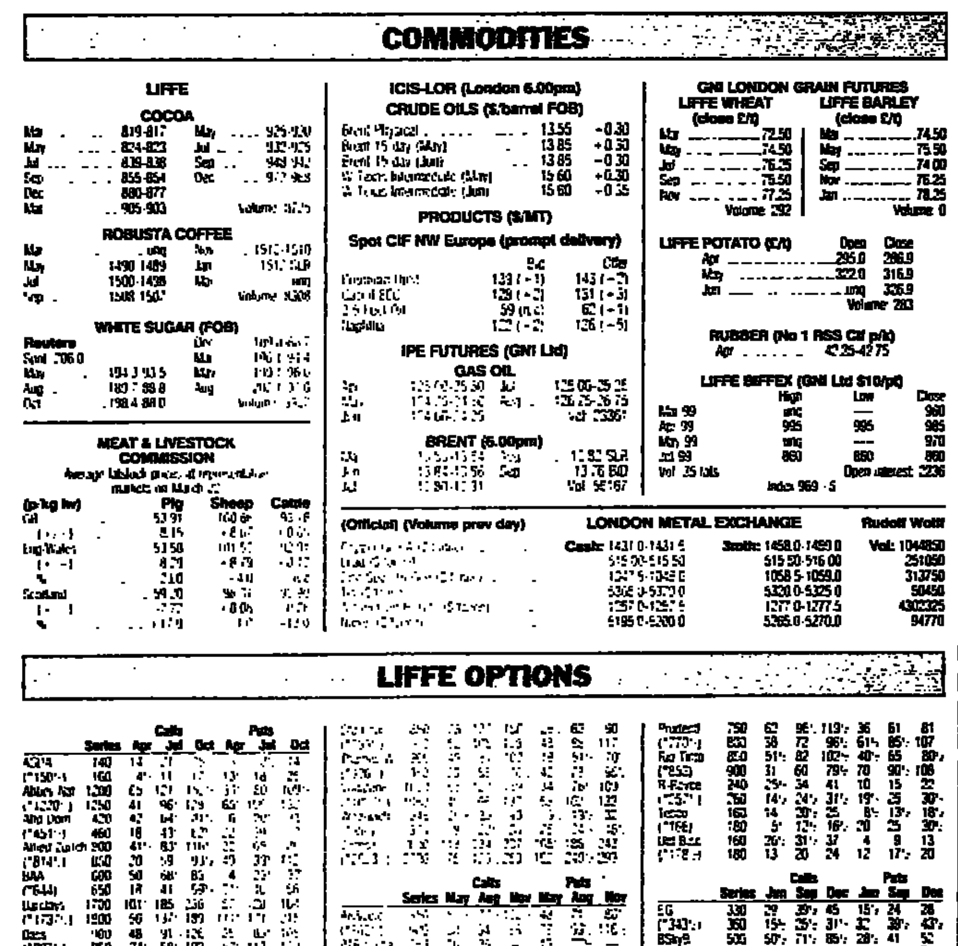
H&R owns the rights to the Kangol brand — currently favoured by the pop icon — and where the Oasis man leads, hordes of fashion-conscious teenagers follow.

H&R has proved itself rather good at snapping up rights to unfashionable brands just as they gain public favour, and then using them to flog garish leisurewear. Lance Yates, chief executive, is a past master at shifting overpriced branded clothes to the gullible. So much so that the Rolling Stones regularly hire him to advise on merchandising.

Even so, H&R has to run pretty fast even to stand still. Kangol's appeal may not last for long, and the company needs to make more well-timed rights purchases to sustain future growth.

At 101½p, down 4p yesterday on some profit taking, the stock trades on an historic p/e of 13. This represents reasonable, but not bargain basement, value for a small company occupying an insecure market place. Yet its football-related brands — backed by big-name players such as David Ginola — have encouraging dependability and, given management's proven ability, the shares make an entertaining punt.

EDITED BY ROBERT COLE



COMMODITIES

LIFFE

COCOA

Mar	819-817	May	925-930
May	824-823	Jul	932-925
Jul	839-838	Sep	948-942
Sep	855-854	Dec	957-963
Dec	880-877		
Mar	905-903		Volume: 3725

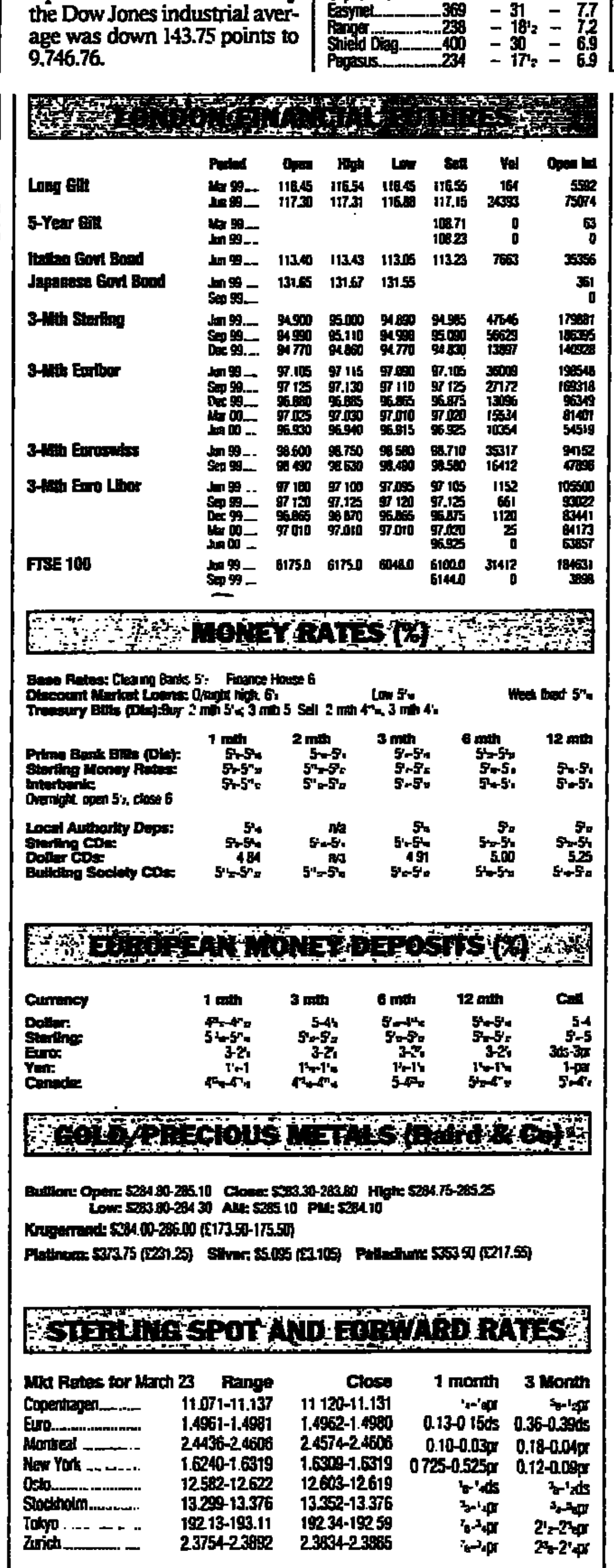
ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	13.55	−0.30
Brent 15 day (May)	13.85	+0.30
Brent 15 day (Jun)	13.85	−0.30
W Texas Intermediate (May)	15.60	+0.30
W Texas Intermediate (Jun)	15.60	−0.35

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

LIFFE OPTIONS



LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol	Open Int
Long Gilt	Mar 99	116.45	116.54	116.45	116.55	164	5592
	Jun 99	117.30	117.31	116.88	117.15	24393	75074
5-Year Gilt	Mar 99				108.71	0	63
	Jun 99				108.23	0	0
Italian Govt Bond	Jun 99	113.40	113.43	113.05	113.23	7663	35356

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

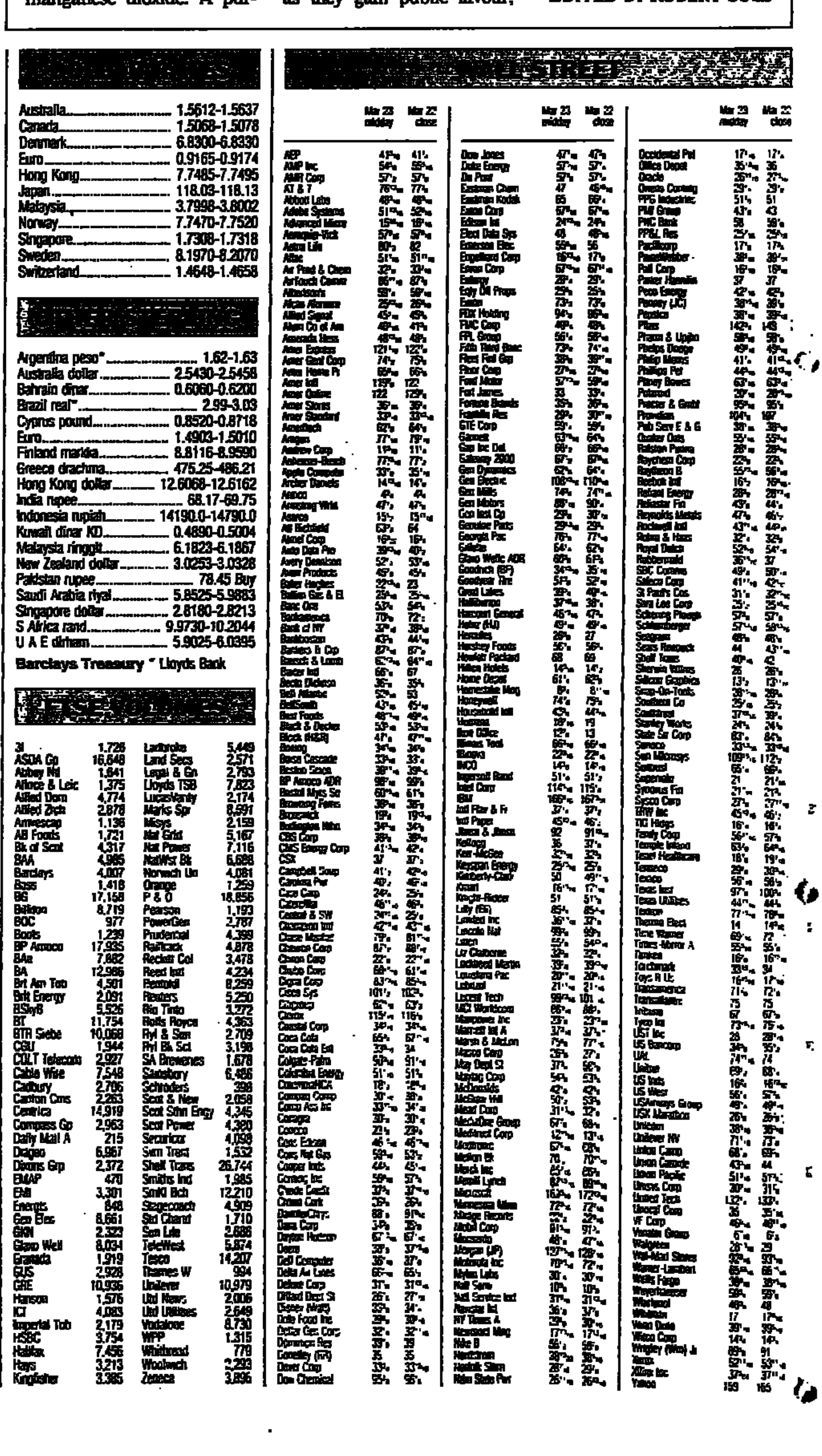
LIFFE WHEAT (close £/t)		LIFFE BARLEY (close £/t)	
Mar	72.50	Mar	74.50
May	74.50	May	75.50
Jul	76.25	Sep	74.00
Sep	75.50	Nov	76.25
Nov	77.25	Jan	78.25
Volume 292		Volume 0	

MONEY RATES (%)

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES



Australia	1.5612-1.5637
Canada	1.5068-1.5078
Denmark	6.8300-6.8330
Euro	0.9165-0.9174
Hong Kong	7.7485-7.7495
Japan	118.03-118.13
Malaysia	3.7998-3.8002

WALL STREET

	Mar 23 midday	Mar 22 close
AEP	41	41½
AMP Inc	54	55
AMR Corp	57½	57
AT & T	76	77
Abbott Labs	48	48
Adobe Systems	51	52

	Mar 23 midday	Mar 22 close
Dow Jones	47	47
Duke Energy	57	57
Du Pont	52	57
Eastman Chem	47	46
Eastman Kodak	65	66
Enron Corp	67	67

	Mar 23 midday	Mar 22 close
Occidental Pet	17	17
Office Depot	35	36
Oracle	26	27
Owens Corning	29	29
PPG Industries	51½	51
PNF Group	43	43

Power struggle over EMU has only just begun

The latent problems inherent within the European single currency are already bubbling to the surface

Oskar Lafontaine is simply the first victim of a long-term power struggle that is built in to the structure of economic and monetary union. The Maastricht treaty set up conflicting rights to economic policy formation, with little or no democratic accountability. This flawed structure reflects compromises between national goals underlying the agreement, most significantly the Franco-German bargain.

The French Government wanted monetary union to recover control over monetary policy. After the failure of Mitterrand's socialist experiment of 1981-83, the *franc fort* policy meant tying the franc to the mark, so that French monetary policy was set by the Bundesbank. With policy now formed by the European Central Bank, French subservience is removed. Germany wanted a much more thorough-going federal union in Europe, including full democratic accountability — something that is no part of the French concept. But the limited French agenda was Mitterrand's price for supporting German reunification in 1990.

Losing the mark was the nasty part of the federal Europe project for the German public, so the common currency's prospects had to be detached from unsound "Club Med" governments — Italy, Spain and even France. Fiscal as well as monetary policy was taken even further away from political (ie democratic) control. The ECB is answerable to nobody, and is supposed to set the "one-size-fits-all" monetary policy. The Maastricht treaty and the Stability and Growth Pact (SGP) set up rules for all participating countries to obey, the most important being the 3 per cent-of-GDP government deficit limit for 1997, with further deflation to nil in the medium term (read: 2002). Add "one-size-fits-all" fiscal policy to irrevocable surrender of foreign exchange and monetary flexibility, and all possibilities of economic policy adjustment are excluded. We can sit back and wait for the explosion, given the widely different economic conditions and policy requirements of Germany, France, Italy and Spain. In particular, Germany can expect rising unemployment and Spain rising inflation.

So who really sets eurozone monetary policy? In theory, it is the ECB. But an important aspect of monetary policy is government bond issuance, which remains under the control of individual governments. Likewise, it interacts with foreign exchange rate policy, which is the province of the euro-11 finance ministers. By fixing the dollar/euro rate, for example, they could ensure the imposition on the eurozone of Alan Greenspan's monetary policy (not such a bad idea, you might think).



In fiscal policy too, there are many fingers in the pie. Suppose growth continues to be disappointing in Germany and, perhaps, Italy. A natural response would be a tax cut. Eurozone unemployment is 11 per cent, compared with 6.2 per cent in Britain and 4.4 per cent in the US, so a little demand stimulus could safely be tried, given inflation at zero. This was Herr Lafontaine's perfectly reasonable point. But a German (or Italian) Government pursuing such a policy would abandon compliance with the SGP. And the ECB has announced that it would tighten monetary policy in response. But this would deflate France and Spain too, where demand is adequate and the SGP being implemented. The ECB claims a role in German fiscal policy, and this implicitly brings in France and Spain. At no stage are voters directly involved.

When it comes to structural reform, surely not the ECB's province, it nonetheless intervenes, and tended to win the argument with Herr Lafontaine. Essential to achieving a large, durable reduction of the eurozone's tragically high unemployment is, particularly, much greater labour market flexibility, in hiring, firing and wages. But with fiscal and monetary policy a repressive and undemocratic battleground, how likely is it that voters will accept lesser job and wage security? More likely, we will see more ruinous collective wage action, like the recent excessive IG Metall settlement, and governments committed to preserving privileges for existing job holders; and even adding new absurdities, like the French 35-hour week. The power struggle instituted by the Maastricht treaty will leave voters with influence only where they are least likely to be rational — and could threaten the liberalising single market reforms, whose guardian is the European Commission.

The confusion of powers in eurozone economic policy invites a prolonged turf war, probably with rising unemployment and an increasingly angry German public. The only logical way forward will be to move toward a democratic federal Europe. But for that the French will have to abandon their control over policy, and the Germans will have to accept Club Med voters having rights over their currency. Just how this will be achieved, given the stagnation, unemployment and power struggles that lie ahead, is hard to see. It is true that separation of powers, the famous "checks and balances", work well in the US. But their system was set up with a clean slate and much more intelligently to start with, and the crucial issue of states' rights was only settled by massive blood-letting in the Civil War. Let us hope that British voters, when and if they are finally consulted, will have the sense to steer clear of what promises to be a nightmare.

☐ *Charles Dumas is a director of Lombard Street Research.*

Bangalore's program for success

Carl Mortished reports on the growth of India's Silicon Valley

Picture this: palm trees, a basketball court and a cluster of low-rise office buildings; a group of young people, twentysomething, dressed in polo shirts, khakis and trainers are milling about with the breezy confidence of the overeducated middle class. It is early morning but pleasantly warm.

Where are you? A college campus in Seattle or perhaps a US high-tech firm in Palo Alto, California? The boss appears, a middle-aged man in blue jeans and T-shirt that fits the industry's informal culture.

But wait a minute, everyone appears to be Asian. Wandering down the road, you pass a huge satellite dish and two oxen pulling a cart. Nearby, a woman balances a basket of wet cement on her head and walks barefoot across a building site. This is India.

The company you have just visited is Infosys, one of several hundred software businesses that have turned Bangalore, once a sleepy Indian Army garrison town, into an electronic Klondike. In the space of five years, the population has grown from 1.5 million to five million. India's best and brightest graduates are fleeing south from the stifling heat and dust of the northern plains to the balmy climate and fashionable bars of Bangalore.

Meanwhile, the country's best export, computer scientists and mathematicians, are making their way home, dragging with them their employers, companies such as Oracle and IBM. This month, Infosys was launched on the Nasdaq stock exchange where its share price soared, valuing the business at more than $2 billion.

It has made many dollar millionaires out of its youthful staff; when the company joined the Bombay Stock Exchange in 1992, the founders set aside 10 per cent of the equity, issuing warrants to employees, which can be exercised at 100 rupees (150p). Seven years on, the shares, taking account of stock splits, are worth the equivalent of about 24,000 rupees. More companies are poised to follow the path to Wall Street.

Infosys and its rivals, WIPRO, Tata Consultancy Services, NIIT and countless others, provide software services. India is a poor country with little oil or minerals. Desperately lacking basic infrastructure, it boasts two assets: people and a location. A vast pool of highly educated engineers who speak English are heading for work when the staff of America's banks, insurance companies and telecom giants are tucked up in bed.

Linked to two telecom satellites with an eye on South Asia, they log into the systems of companies such as Boeing, Northern Telecom, Bell Atlantic, Goldman Sachs, Levi Strauss, British Airways and Unilever, updating, repairing and writing code for new programs.

Large teams work exclusively for big clients in what are known as Offshore Software Development Centres. A key source of work is the millennium bug, accounting for about 20 per cent of Infosys sales, but the company expects the euro to fill the gap after December 31, 1999.

The key to their success is cost. A typical Indian software graduate from a top technology college might comand a salary of about $6,000 (£3,700). His equivalent in Silicon Valley could ask for $60,000, a cost arbitrage that enables Infosys to challenge rivals such as Sapient and Cambridge Technology Partners.

British Telecom has outsourced most of its software development to an Indian venture, Mahindra British Telecom, as did British Airways with its data-processing centre in Bombay. Oracle developed the operating system for its network computer in Bangalore. Most of the UK's clearing banks and building societies are moving back office software maintenance to India.

The success of this industry owes much to the work of Dewang Mehta, the mercurial 36-year-old president of Nasscom, the Indian software industry lobby. Like many, he left India to seek opportunities, training as an accountant and later graduating from Imperial College in London with a degree in computing.

For Mr Mehta, the brain drain has been the making of India. "Lots of people argue it is bad. But I think it is better to have brain drain than brain in the drain."

A bigger problem was convincing India's conservative establishment that this quirky, free-wheeling industry should be encouraged. Tariff barriers made it almost impossible to import the best equipment. "The Government did not understand software — they wanted us to use Russian computers."

But Mr Mehta charmed, cajoled and bullied politicians into granting concessions: bonded software technology parks allowed companies to import IBM mainframes, free of duty. Tax-free profits from exports opened up the lucrative North American and European markets.

In the space of five to ten years, the offshore software industry has grown from almost nothing to represent 10 per cent of India's $120 billion stock market. Export sales are growing by 50 per cent per year and the new software millionaires are challenging the status of India's industrial mafia; the barons who run India's textile, steel and chemical combines. The new elite are rather different and their needs and attitudes pose real challenges for India's slow-moving Government and sclerotic state-controlled industries.

Infosys was founded by Narayan Murthy in 1992. He had worked for a subsidiary of Cap Gemini in France in the 1970s. "I was a leftist when I left India and I met Communist leaders in France. But I realised that the only way to solve India's problems was to create more wealth and it is not the job of Government to create wealth."

The final blow to his left-wing sympathies came on a trip to Bulgaria where, as a result of a risky conversation in a public place, he was locked up for 72 hours by the police without food or water. "They said: 'You are from a friendly country, that is why we are letting you go.' I thought: 'Who needs friends like this.'"



Mr Murthy reckons that true wealth creators are few in number and need to be rewarded. In his words he wanted to create an ethically run, world-class company. Infosys is highly paternalistic and rewards its people well with zero-interest home loans, marriage loans, a health centre, sauna and canteen (lunch costs 8p).

Every employee — called Infoscions in the company jargon — gets a birthday present; this year it is a backpack. "We wanted to make this a fun place to work."

And it is popular. Infosys received 71,000 job applications last year — only 1,800 were made offers. Mr Murthy has created an oasis of talent and opportunity in a world where the latter is in critically short supply. Infosys is literally an oasis: frequent power cuts mean it must generate its own electricity: water is tankered in and company buses provide staff transport to work.

The Infoscions of Bangalore are still doing well as an island of free-wheeling high-tech capitalism but the rest of India remains dependent on government control of an infrastructure that is crumbling. Labour costs are going up; salaries in Bangalore are rising 20-25 per cent a year, threatening to erode the cost advantage over the long term.

Critical for the software industry is new investment in power generation and in the ramshackle telephone network, however, privatisation still seems far off. Foreign investors like AT&T and British Telecom have had their fingers burnt in a clumsy auction of telecoms licences. AT&T recently sued the Government in an attempt to escape the crippling licence fee.

Privatisation means taking on vested interests: unions, civil servants. Not an easy task in a country that provides no safety net for the unemployed. But the software industry is providing a challenge to the traditional Indian powerbase and the software gurus, such as Dewang Mehta, are almost messianic in their belief that free information flow is empowering. Five million Indians tune into a Sunday morning television programme about computers hosted by Mr Mehta and India's Mr Software has other ideas. He wants to instal computers with Internet links in the STDIs, the telephone shops that provide communication for the hundreds of millions of Indians without phones.

He recently carried out an experiment. Half of India's population is illiterate, making e-mail an irrelevance, so he found 18 taxi-drivers in Bombay and hooked them up by video e-mail to their families in the countryside.

For one driver, Ram Singh, recently married and alone in the big smoke, it was an emotional moment. It took some time to convince his wife to remove her veil in front of the camera. But a few minutes later she was complaining about the cost of the video compared with ordinary e-mail. She decided they must learn to read and write.

Dewang Mehta talks to Ritu Beri, the Indian fashion designer, on his television programme

Volume fall

AS THE rail industry will soon find out, Tom Winsor of Denton Hall drew up the legislation that is supposed to punish train companies for poor performance and has long wanted it enforced with proper severity.

Quite by chance, I once witnessed his negotiating skills at first hand. It was in a restaurant close to Denton Hall's offices off Fleet Street, and the manager was subjecting the lunchtime and largely business clientele to dance music at a volume that prevented normal conversation. Winsor asked him to turn it down. The manager refused.

Winsor then pointed out, in lawyerly fashion, 1) the proximity of Denton Hall's offices, 2) the large number of Denton Hall partners there today as a result, 3) the fact that none were especially fond of disco music, and 4) the effect on the restaurant's cashflow if they went elsewhere.

They turned the music down.

"Earls Court isn't our ideal home — let's sell it"

FROM Elderstreet Investments's guide to Techtalk, and the world of technology venture capitalists "where English is often a second language":

Helpline: an engaged telephone: see Hotline.

Hotline: an engaged telephone with recorded music.

Core business: the only part of corporate activity the board can explain to the City.

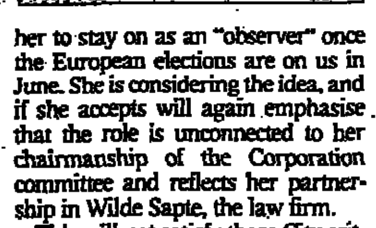
THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Wilde at heart

JUDITH MAYHEW, chairman of policy and resources at the Corporation of London, may have given up her post on the board of Britain in Europe, the pro-Europe pressure group, but she has not given up her europhile ambitions.

Britain in Europe is now pressing her to stay on as an "observer" once the European elections are on us in June. She is considering the idea, and if she accepts will again emphasise that the role is unconnected to her chairmanship of the Corporation committee and reflects her partnership in Wilde Sapte, the law firm.

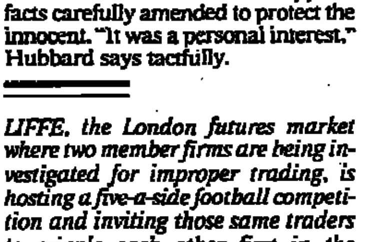
This will not satisfy those City critics who oppose any involvement by such a Corporation figure in a political lobbying group while the Corporation's own stance on the euro is officially neutral. Mayhew is not out of the woods yet, I fear.



Family ties

ACQUISITION Strategy and Implementation is a scholarly work inspired by sometimes painful family experiences for Nancy Hubbard, a consultant and academic. She has proven, through statistical analysis, that three quarters of companies involved in hostile takeovers underperform thereafter.

Several management consultants have come to similar conclusions before. But Hubbard's father, William, ran SCM, one of Hanson's victims. An even bloodier battle was the Blue Circle takeover of Birmid, headed by her father-in-law, Peter Prateley. The book is a *roman à clef* in which case histories drawn from real life appear, facts carefully amended to protect the innocent. "It was a personal interest," Hubbard says tactfully.

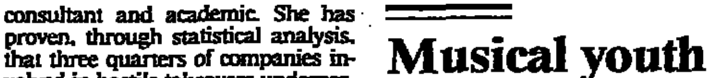


LIFFE, the London futures market where two member firms are being investigated for improper trading, is hosting a five-a-side football competition and inviting those same traders to cripple each other first in the name of sport before the regulator gets to them.

As the trading floor at Liffe's Cannon Street offices is still open for now, the matches will be held on the floor of another redundant trading pit — the London Stock Exchange.

They will have plenty to talk about in the changing rooms. The latest rumours are that Refco, one of the two, has run up £2 million in legal fees since the inquiry started more than two years ago. This will dwarf any penalty imposed by the Liffe authorities — Refco has already denied a £1.2 million fine.

Plus I hear another very big name has become entangled in the inquiry.



Musical youth

THIS is Edmond Warner, head of European equities at BT Alex Brown, preparing for a new career after the Deutsche Bank takeover. He is in Sydney buying a didgeridoo, I put it to him. Normally they plead mistaken identity, or something equally pathetic. But he comes clean. "I'm finding my inner self." Warner carried the thing home and then found that he couldn't play it. "My five-year-old daughter is better than I am."

MARTIN WALLER

city.diary@the-times.co.uk



Blowout: Edmond Warner gets in touch with his 'inner self'

Delta hopes cut in payout heralds recovery

By Adam Jones

DELTA, the struggling engineer, yesterday said that it is to halve its dividend, but that it hoped that the cut will draw a line under turmoil in the company.

Delta has had to extricate itself from the cutthroat cablemaking industry, offloading some businesses to BICC in 1998 and agreeing to sell the rest earlier this month. The disposals were the subject of £76.3 million of provisions made in 1997.

Although there was no need to increase these provisions in the 1998 figures released yesterday, Delta was still hit by currency and export difficulties. Pre-tax profits fell from £47.8 million to £41.7 million, excluding exceptional items and discontinued activities. On the same basis, sales rose from £534.3 million to £663 million.

Exports to Malaysia, Singapore and Hong Kong were hit by the strong pound. Jon Scott-Maxwell, chief executive, said that Delta had also suffered in Australia and South Africa, where it makes products for local mining industries, because of falls in the Australian dollar and the rand. The combined currency hit was £8 million.

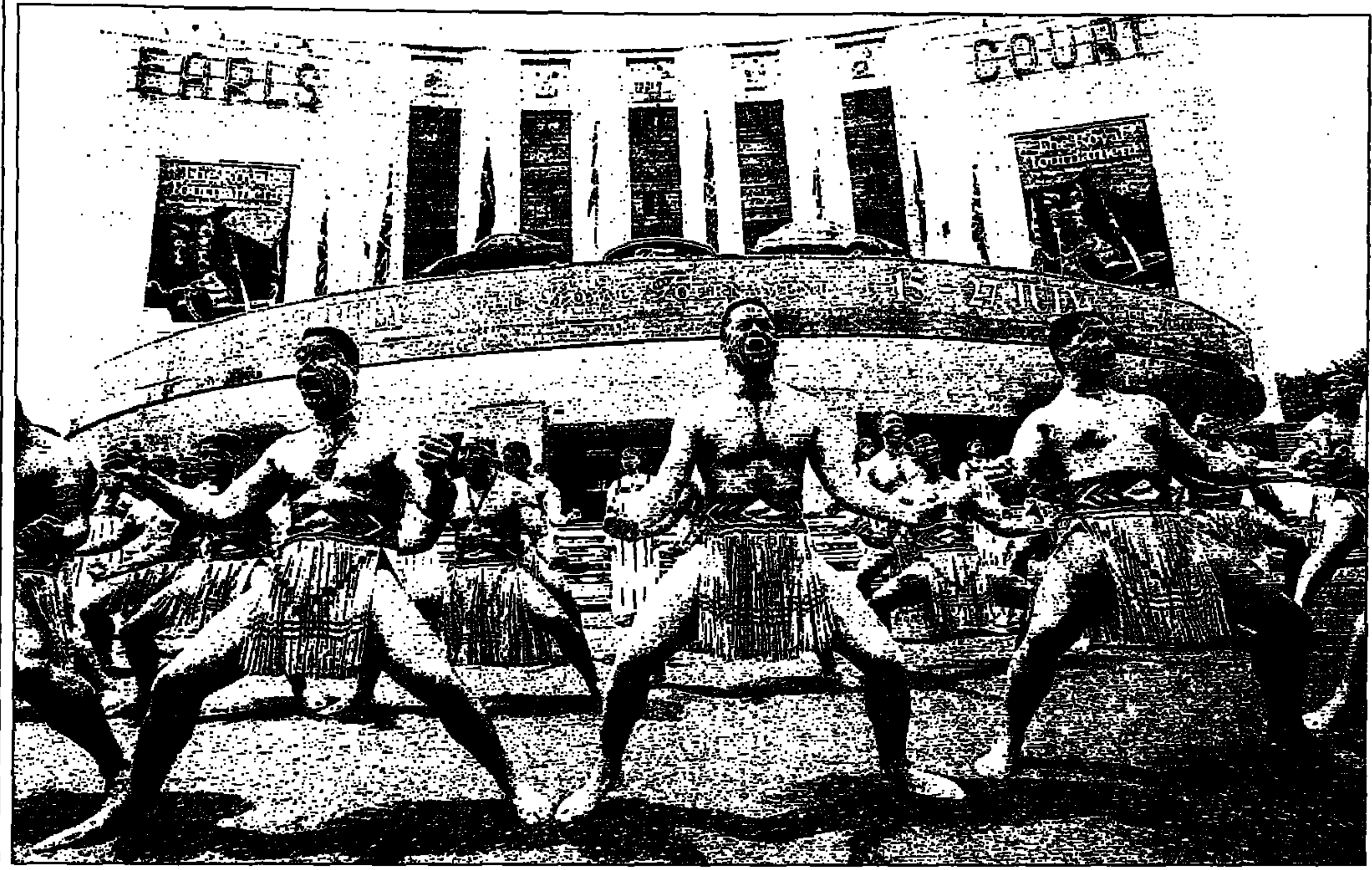
A further £10 million was lost through the downturn in Asia. Mr Scott-Maxwell said Far East conditions had stabilised, but he did not expect big improvements this year.

So far in 1999, about 200 jobs have been cut in the European plumbing businesses. Gearing is likely to fall from 67 per cent to about 50 per cent in the next few months.

Earnings per share were 15.1p, up from 1997's loss per share of 29.5p. The total dividend is cut from 16p to 8p. The shares yesterday rose 3½p to 130½p, having fallen from a 12-month high of 340p.

Tempus, page 28

P&O's proposed disposal highlights shortage of exhibition space



The Earls Court exhibition centre, which has been put up for sale by P&O, plays host to a wide variety of shows, events and organisations

Earls Court puts spotlight on capital locations

FOR the first time in living memory one of the UK's few leading specialist exhibition centres is up for grabs.

P&O yesterday said that, in its drive to move away from property towards its core business of cruises, ferries and ports, one of its key disposals would be the Earls Court Olympia Exhibition Centre, host of events from the Ideal Home Exhibition and the London Boat Show to concerts by Oasis.

Last year 3.25 million people passed through its doors and it hosted 32,000 exhibitors, 140 exhibitions and 120 conferences.

The centre, with a combined floor space of 108,000 sq m is second in size only to Birmingham's National Exhibition Centre, which after the opening of its 30,000 sq m extention at the end of last year now has a floor space of more than 190,000 sq m. Languishing far behind the two giants, the UK's third and fourth-largest centres are the Wembley Conference and Exhibition Centre and Coventry's NAC Stoneleigh Park, both with just 16,000 sq m.

This seemingly huge disparity is one factor that will have to be taken into consideration when a price tag is eventually placed on the site. Although it has net operating assets of £181 million, its value is sure to rise significantly above this figure because it is the only site in London capable of staging major exhibitions on a scale demanded by international companies needing a springboard into the UK market.

"It's not as if you could compare it to selling a terraced house, looking at another sold down the road a few weeks back," says Austin Hawkin, deputy director of the Association of Exhibition Organisers (AEO). "It is in an unique position. The UK has always had a shortage of exhibition space, especially in Central London."

There is more exhibition space in Paris than in the whole of the UK. Although a veritable giant when compared with other UK centres, the Earls Court site is dwarfed by its European counterparts.

However, the construction of the second phase of a new international exhibition centre in London is currently under way. Excel, on the north side of the Royal Victoria Dock, near Docklands, is to have 66,000 sq m of exhibition hall space, 24,000 sq m of conference meeting and banqueting accommodation, and parking for 5,000 cars. Three on-site hotels with 1,000 bedrooms are planned for later phases.

The backers of Excel — which include the London Docklands Development Corporation and Country Heights Holdings, a Malaysian property developer — say they are about to make an "imminent announcement" about a bond issue to raise funds necessary to complete its second phase.

With turnover of £850 million and annual growth of 5 per cent, the UK's exhibition sector is not to be sniffed at. But in international terms the UK is limping behind the main competitors. In May the exhibitions industry is due to launch a £200,000 advertising campaign aimed at highlighting the business potential of UK sites such as Earls Court.

"Only about a dozen exhibitions are genuinely international or have world significance," says Mr Hawkin. "Although it is good to have a major centre at Birmingham, in the middle of the country, foreigners aren't keen to go all that way."

The AEO says that, if successful, the backers of Excel may well expand it. However, the AEO is also continuing to lobby the Government to create a new space in Central London for conferences and exhibitions that could compete with not just continental, but also American cities.

"Millions of pounds are lost throughout the whole UK economy because we do not have the facilities to cater for international conferences — contractors, business travel, hotels and shops, not to mention potential partnerships of exhibiting companies with UK companies."

Which all goes to make Earls Court Olympia a magnificent opportunity for someone willing to invest in the venue.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Hays to spend £36m on two acquisitions

HAYS, the services conglomerate, is to spend up to £36.8 million making two new acquisitions, one in France and one in the UK. The company, headed by Ronnie Frost, is to pay up to Fr170 million (£19.5 million) for Ceritex, a call centre company in France that provides helpdesk services for French blue chip companies. Hays is paying an initial Fr120 million, with the balance depending on performance. Ceritex last year had operating profits of Fr16.2 million on sales of Fr276 million and had net debt of Fr22 million.

Hays is to pay up to £17.3 million for Crawfords Computers, a privately owned British company that provides database and management services for such clients as Lloyds TSB and the Nationwide Building Society. It is paying an initial £12.3 million for the company, with the rest based on future profits. Crawfords last year had sales of £5.3 million and operating profits of £800,000. Both Crawfords and Ceritex are to be spun into Hays's new Business Process Support division. Mr Frost said: "Ceritex marks Business Process Support's first move into continental Europe in line with our strategy of expanding our UK operations overseas. Both operations present excellent opportunities for strong profit growth."

Ascot cheers the City

ASCOT, the specialist engineer and chemicals group, cheered the market yesterday after reporting a 20 per cent increase in earnings for last year, and said that it had started the current year ahead of expectations. The company reported pre-tax profits of £27 million for 1998, down from £30.7 million last year. However, after stripping out exceptional items, adjusted earnings per share came in at 30p, up from 25.1p. A final dividend of 7.5p is being paid, making a total of 11p, a rise of 22 per cent. The company's shares rose 12½p to 265p.

Sherwood still upbeat

SHERWOOD, the Nottingham lace and lingerie group, said that business in 1999 had improved after a 1998 ravaged by the downturn in consumer spending and the fall in the worldwide demand for lace. The company made a £6.5 million 1998 pre-tax loss after £12 million losses at operations from which it has exited, and £7.2 million restructuring charges. The loss per share was 8.9p, against earnings in 1997 of 4p per share. At the operating level, the company made profits of £10.1 million (£11.1 million.) The final and total dividends remain unchanged at 2.3p and 3.6p respectively.

Danka sells division

DANKA BUSINESS SYSTEMS, one of the worst-performing shares on the stock market, had some relief yesterday when it announced that it is selling Danka Services International, its outsourcing business, to Schroder Ventures. The price has not been disclosed. DSI, which is based in Rochester, New York, last year had sales of $275 million (£170 million). Danka will continue to hold a minority interest in the business. Shares of Danka Business Systems, which have tumbled from 848p less than three years ago, put on 1½p to 83p yesterday.

Baynes poor forecast

THE manufacturing climate in the first months of 1999 is proving no better than it was at the end of 1998, according to Charles Baynes, the industrial components maker. Bruce McInnes, the chairman, said: "In the year ahead we expect the UK manufacturing sector to continue to be weak and only start improving in 2000." The company reported pre-tax profits before exceptional items for 1998 down 20 per cent to £18.1 million, Earnings per share came in at 6.68p (7.54p). The dividend remains unchanged at 3.2p.

BLP cuts dividend

BLP, the manufacturer of veneer and PVC products, reported a 22 per cent fall in pre-tax profits to £1.9 million for 1998, and cut the dividend, but said that its UK operations were recovering after a rapid downturn in business in the fourth quarter. Malcolm Cohen, the chairman, said: "We have seen some strengthening of our order books and the level of quotations is very encouraging." Earnings per share dropped to 8.3p from 27.6p. The final dividend of 2.5p makes a total of 5p, against 7.5p for 1997.

PPL gets go-ahead

PPL THERAPEUTICS, the firm producing medicines from the milk of genetically modified sheep, has secured the capacity to allow the full-scale commercial manufacture of AAT, its possible treatment for cystic fibrosis (writes Paul Durman).

This follows the decision by authorities in New Zealand to grant PPL permission to expand its flock of AAT-producing sheep from 147 to up to 10,000. Recent trial results suggested that patients will need to take high doses of AAT to reduce the lung infections caused by cystic fibrosis. The shares ticked up 1½p to 107½p.

Tesco to invest in South Korea

By Dominic Walsh

TESCO, the supermarket group, is to invest £130 million in developing a chain of hypermarkets in South Korea in partnership with Samsung, the electronics giant.

The joint venture will initially have net assets of £160 million, with Tesco investing £80 million in cash and the South Korean group injecting assets worth a similar amount. The assets are two hypermarkets trading as Homeplus and three development sites.

Tesco will initially own 51 per cent of the joint venture, but it will pay a further £50 million in June to lift its stake to 81 per cent. The two Homeplus outlets, averaging 90,000 sq ft, are in Taegu and Pusan, just outside Seoul. At least five more openings are planned in the next three years.

Tesco, which in recent years has established a presence in Central Europe, said that its South Korean move was part of a strategy of expanding into underdeveloped markets. Last year it entered Asia by acquiring 13 Lotus hypermarkets in Thailand and it continues to seek opportunities in Taiwan.

David McCarthy, an analyst for BT Alex Brown, said that although Tesco's diversifications into foreign markets and personal finance would not make significant profits for three to four years, the group was "developing a coherent long-term strategy". He said that, outside the UK, Tesco was now operating in countries with a total population of 170 million people.

هكذا من الأصل

Tradepoint wins chance to trade UK shares in US

BY CAROLINE MERRELL

TRADEPOINT, the company set up to rival the London Stock Exchange, has won approval to operate in the US, after a lengthy battle.

Approval from the SEC, the US financial regulator, means that the company will be able to offer its services to US-based fund managers who will be able to buy UK equities direct and without going through an intermediary.

It is the first time that the SEC has allowed a foreign exchange to trade in the US.

Shares of Tradepoint, which is itself quoted on London's Alternative Investment Market, almost doubled yesterday rising 17½p to 36p. The company floated at 175p in 1996 but the shares dived soon afterwards.

Tradepoint has already racked up about £30 million of losses and admitted yesterday that it was seeking some more finance. It said: "The company can confirm it is in discussions with a number of financing parties and is currently considering the most appropriate of these options."

In the UK, Tradepoint has signed up only 81 companies. Nic Stuchfield, the chief executive, said: "Tradepoint will open the way for US investors to trade in UK equities with much greater ease and at greatly reduced costs."

Mr Stuchfield added: "The transaction costs for US fund managers dealing [in UK equities] in the US is very high." He said he wanted to go live with five or six fund managers within three months. Mr Stuchfield said that Tradepoint's share of transactions on the UK stock market varied between 0.5 and 1 per cent. To break even the company's share of transactions has to reach about 1.3 per cent market share.

Under the agreement with the SEC, Tradepoint has bypassed complex and onerous disclosure rules that have in the past effectively prevented an overseas exchange from setting up in the world's biggest market.

In turn, Tradepoint has had to agree a cap on its volumes of 10 per cent of trade on the established London Exchange, though the company acknowledged that Tradepoint was in no immediate risk of bumping up against that level. The approval from the SEC came after an application originally submitted in October 1997.

Fitch recommends £26m takeover

BY MARTIN BARROW

FITCH, the design and branding consultancy, has joined the rush of smaller companies defecting from the stock market.

The company is recommending a £26 million takeover bid by Lighthouse Acquisition Company Inc, a US private investment and management company.

The offer is worth 62p a share in cash. Shareholders will also receive a second interim dividend of 0.69p a share. Taken together, the offer represents a premium of 66.1 per cent to Monday's closing share price. Acceptances have been received in respect of 51.2 per cent of Fitch's share capital.

Yesterday Fitch reported £2.6 million pre-tax profits for 1998, up from £2.2 million in 1997.



John Severs, left, Severfield-Reeve's managing director, Peter Davison, finance director, and Peter Levine, chairman

Severfield wary after 11% rise

SEVERFIELD-REEVE, the structural steel group, has reported an 11 per cent rise in underlying pre-tax profits in 1998, but struck a cautious note on prospects for this year (Martin Barrow writes).

The company said that although the year had started well in its core steelwork business, there is increasing evidence of a tightening of prices and margins. However, Peter Levine, chairman, said that the current order book remained strong at £50 million.

Pre-tax profits for 1998 rose to £10.2 million before exceptional items, from £9.4 million in 1997. Adjusted earnings per share rose by 11 per cent, to 35.9p. The company also booked an exceptional gain of £1.7 million on disposal of non-core businesses. A 7p final dividend makes 12p, up from 10p.

The shares yesterday rose 6p to 317½p. However, they remain at a sharp discount to a 12-month high of 601p struck last year.

Hunting hit by oil price weakness

BY PAUL ARMSTRONG

WEAK oil prices have taken a harsh toll of profits at Hunting but the petroleum and defence group said that it expects the tough environment in the industry to provide acquisition opportunities this year.

Hunting said yesterday that its 1998 pre-tax profit rose just 4 per cent to £40.4 million. The result would have been far worse had cost cuts not helped to offset a 25 per cent fall in turnover to £981.8 million.

Ken Miller, chief executive, said that trading conditions in the oil division deteriorated sharply in the second half, driving down its profit for the year to £23 million, from £31.6 million previously.

Hunting's defence operations recorded a 6.6 per cent rise in profit to £25.9 million thanks to work that it won on the Apache helicopter. A proposed 0.5p final makes an unchanged total of 9.25p.

Mr Miller said that it would take about three months for the recent recovery in oil prices to flow through to Hunting's bottom line, but added that, provided the gains were retained, earnings should improve in the second half.

Hunting cut costs in its oil operations by £5 million last year, partly as a result of a 20 per cent reduction in staff to about 800. He said that there was scope for further reductions, although the savings would not match those recorded last year.

Hunting's defence division has secured two new contracts since the end of the year, each worth about £50 million. The first involves orders from the Ministry of Defence for an integrated biological defence system, and the second is for batteries and chargers as part of the Armed Forces' Bowman project.

He said that Hunting's improved balance sheet and interest cover of 9.3 times had prompted it to study several acquisition opportunities, some of which were still under "active consideration".

Norske Bank in merger

BY MARTIN BARROW

THE wave of mergers in European banking continued yesterday in Norway when Den norske Bank and the state-run Postbanken announced that they are merging to create that country's largest financial services group.

The deal, valued at Kr4.5 billion (£356 million), is expected to yield annual cost savings of Kr450 million by the end of 2003. Combined assets will total Kr315 billion, making the new group the eighth-largest financial services company in the Nordic region, with 7,500 employees.

The merger is expected to be completed by May 14. It is conditional on approval by Norway's Communications Ministry and Finance Ministry. The Norwegian parliament must also approve a change in the legal status of Postbanken, which is being restructured ahead of its privatisation.

Amey builds case for move to new sector

BY ADAM JONES

AMEY is trying to shed its construction group image and move to the more fashionable support services sector of the London Stock Exchange.

The group has been pressing for the move since November, but has not had a reply from the Exchange committee responsible for classification.

Brian Staples, Amey's chief executive, said: "It is one of the inevitable next steps for the group."

Amey has moved away from dependence on construction to focus on outsourced work as diverse as managing buildings and running organisations' information technology helpdesks. Mr Staples said: "This year, 90 per cent of our earnings are from support services rather than construction."

Amey yesterday announced 1998 pre-tax profits of £18.7 million, up from £14.6 million in 1997. Sales rose from £389.4 million to £471 million.

Construction still accounts for the bulk of sales, however, contributing £228.5 million in turnover, but just £2.3 million in profits. The company said that this was still "way short" of an acceptable profit margin.

Mr Staples said that he expected the identity to be announced, in the next few weeks, of Amey's partners in a bid to manage part of the London Underground infrastructure.

He was not yet able to say how much the recent failed bid for Servisair would cost.

Earnings per share rose 35 per cent to 42.02p (31.11p). A 9p final dividend makes 13.5p, up 23 per cent. The shares rose 42½p to 632½p.

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
ACM INVESTMENTS LTD				
0171 470 0100				
Short Dtd Gilt	139.10	140.60	+ 0.10	
US Govt Bd (US$)	0.8467	0.8649	- 0.0002	
Gilt Income	55.22	56.07†		5.40
Gilt Growth	100.60	102.45		
Sterling Bond	58.10	57.19†	- 0.02	5.50
AIB GOVETT UNIT TRUST LTD				
0171 378 7979 Dealing: 0171 407 7999				
Protected Funds				
UK Safeguard	146.81	156.45	- 0.31	
-do- NAV to Jan 19	145.58	145.58		
UK Equity Safeguard	119.32	126.55	- 0.29	3.19
-do- NAV to Mar 19	116.050	116.0500		
US Eqy Safeguard	96.68	102.70	- 0.30	
Cash	955.76	959.94		6.25
UK Growth Funds				
UK Equity Gen	433.66	461.34	- 5.07	1.25
UK Small Cos	96.64	103.36	- 0.12	0.35
FTSE 250 Index	112.04	119.93	- 0.31	1.95
Geared UK Index	#24.326	#25.679	- 0.72	5.75
Income Funds				
Corp Bd	88.17	91.14	- 0.11	5.77
Monthly Inc	45.75	46.80†	- 0.15	9.62
International Funds				
American Gen	390.34	411.81	+ 0.67	
American Strat	177.13	188.91	- 0.55	
JG US Index	#30.183	#31.799	- 0.38	4.50
European Gen	437.19	462.58	- 6.08	0.09
European Strat	206.97	221.57	- 2.67	
Japan Gen	116.84	123.26	- 2.38	
Asia Pacific	66.43	70.84	- 0.45	1.78
Pacific Strat	96.44	102.07	- 0.14	
Greater China	163.01	174.34	+ 1.40	
Latin America	64.98	69.32	- 0.72	
Int Growth	198.94	212.40	- 1.38	

Equities beat ragged retreat

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

[illegible]

BANKS

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BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

[illegible]

BUILDING MATERIALS

[illegible]

CHEMICALS

[illegible]

CONSTRUCTION

[illegible]

DISTRIBUTORS

[illegible]

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

[illegible]

ELECTRICITY

[illegible]

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

[illegible]

ENGINEERING

[illegible]

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

[illegible]

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

[illegible]

HEALTHCARE

[illegible]

HOUSEHOLD GDS & TEXT

[illegible]

INSURANCE

[illegible]

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

[illegible]

LEISURE & HOTELS

[illegible]

MEDIA

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MINING

[illegible]

OIL & GAS

[illegible]

OTHER FINANCIAL

[illegible]

PHARMACEUTICALS

[illegible]

BRITISH FUNDS

SHORTS (under 5 years)

[illegible]

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

[illegible]

LONGS (over 15 years)

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UNDATED

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INDEX-LINKED

[illegible]

PRINTING & PAPER

[illegible]

PROPERTY

[illegible]

RETAILERS, FOOD

[illegible]

RETAILERS, GENERAL

[illegible]

SUPPORT SERVICES

[illegible]

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

[illegible]

TRANSPORT

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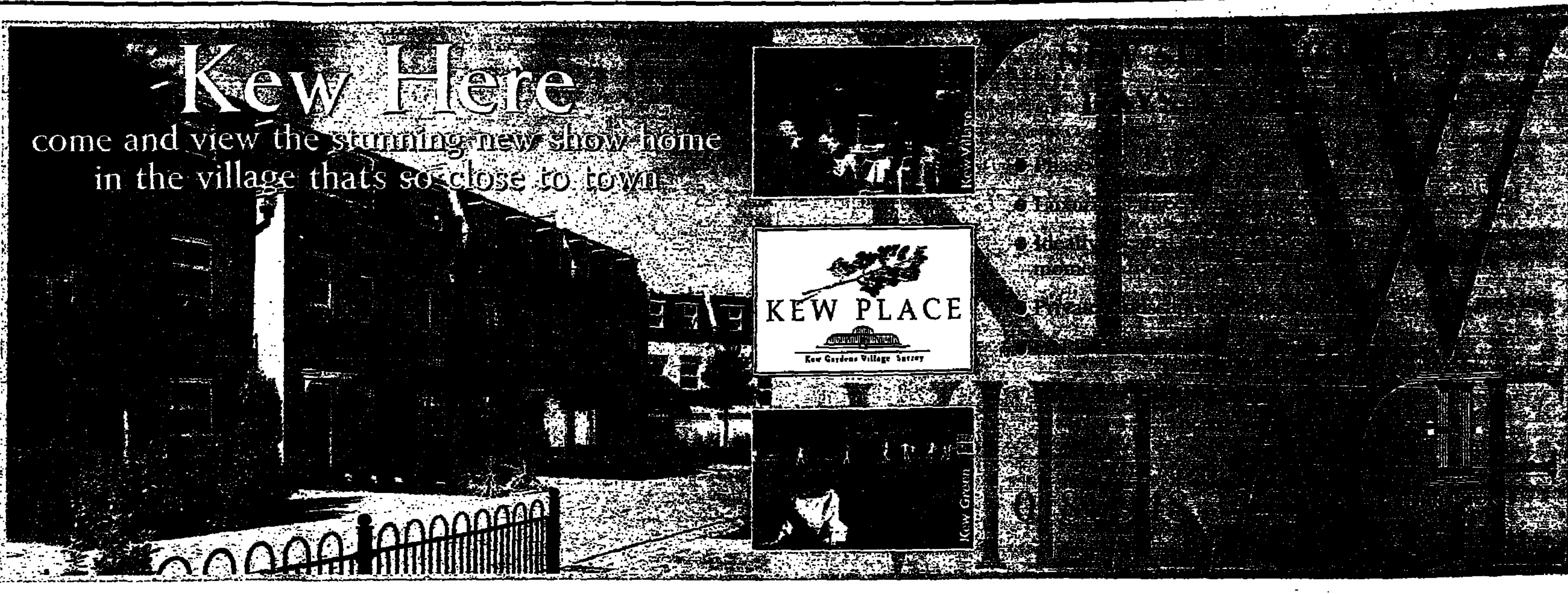
WATER

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ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

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KENT

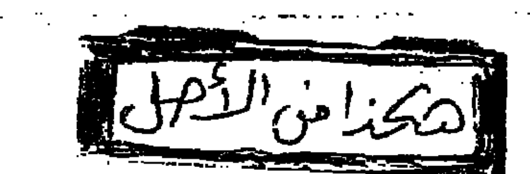
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Why builders must do better

Rachel Kelly on new rules to stop cowboy builders from taking you for a ride

Cowboy builders beware. In a crackdown on rogue workers, a government task force has recommended cash compensation to homeowners who have suffered at their hands.

Other recommendations that have just landed on the desk of Nick Raynsford, the junior Environment Minister, include a national helpline giving details of firms with a "quality mark" and a cut in VAT on maintenance and repair, which was ignored in the Budget.

The quality mark would be backed by warranties with a minimum level of £100, which would cover homeowners against the failure of major repair work or extensions. There would also be a standard contract for small works, and a national publicity campaign for a quality mark and testing of staff for competence.

The suggestions are the culmination of nearly a year's work by a task force headed by Tony Merricks, the general manager of Balfour Beatty's specialist contracting business. The ideas are expected to be put out for consultation, followed by a six-month study before the system is introduced in summer next year.

The proposal that has met most government resistance is the plan to cut VAT on repairs and maintenance. One of the classic routes of the disreputable builder is to offer work at a reduced rate to avoid paying VAT. Reform would reduce the price differential between honest firms and the tax-evading cowboys.

The report says: "Although it is understood that a reduction in the rate at which it is applied would be difficult given European Union regulations, it is considered that lowering the threshold would in itself be of benefit in creating a more level playing field."

Less controversial is the quality mark idea, a scheme floated last April by Mr Raynsford. Contractors would get the mark after being assessed by an accreditation body that could be run by an existing trade association. Industry bodies wishing to provide such accreditation might have to pay about £30,000 to deal with the cost of complaints. This in turn would mean higher fees from firms wishing to subscribe.

There will be greater protection, too, for new homeowners from next month. The National House Building Council is seeking to restore a reputation tarnished by accusations that it is too heavily weighted in favour of housebuilders.

John Callcutt, the chief executive of Britain's fourteenth largest housebuilder, Crest Nicholson, called on the NHBC last month to publish league tables of housebuilders so that buyers can see which companies perform best. The NHBC is naturally nervous of printing such information while its main funding comes from builders themselves. But it has announced plans to extend its cover for new homeowners to include the cost of making good contaminated land on sites registered with the NHBC after April 1.

Jane Chapman, from the NHBC, says: "New homeowners of NHBC-registered houses will benefit from protection if and where a statutory clean-up notice is served under the Environment Act, expected this July."

Such cover might seem unimportant, but in a climate of growing environmental and political pressure to develop more brownfield land, such protection is crucial. Furthermore, from the autumn, the NHBC is introducing a revised inspection service which will allow its inspectors to increase the number of visits where they identify a potentially difficult site.

Both sets of proposals to ostracise crooks and rogues, whether working on old properties or new, still rely on self-regulation.

That was Mr Raynsford's implicit message in appointing Mr Merricks to run his task force and leaving the NHBC to improve its act.

The building industry is naturally keen to emphasise that charlatans are in the minority. Ian Davis, the director-general of the Federation of Master Builders, says: "The cowboy element damages the reputation of the building industry, but in reality this group is very small."

But trading standards officers receive about 100,000 complaints a year against builders, dwarfing those they receive about second-hand car dealers. Time will tell whether the building trade can clean up its own act.

In Australia, the message has been that only legislation can work. Draconian measures in the state of Victoria have cut the failure rate of new installations by 80 per cent on the previous year. Homeowners, for example, must collect a certificate of compliance from a licensed plumber on completion of their work.

Ultimately, it may be that only regulation will prove successful in Britain. Really tough measures, outlined by *Building*, the trade magazine, include compulsory registration for builders. It would be illegal for builders to carry out domestic work unless they were registered, and to become registered they would have to demonstrate technical competence.

A second suggestion is for a construction "tsar", along the lines of the water industry regulator, who can resolve disputes and strike builders off the register. Mr Raynsford is expected to favour self-regulation at least for a couple of years. Builders — and charlatans — have one last chance.



THE KOBAL COLLECTION

Cowboy builders are not a modern phenomenon, as Stan Laurel and Oliver Hardy prove in *The Finishing Touch*, 1928

- Ask neighbours if they have had good experiences with local firms.
- Ask builders for references and names of satisfied customers. Visit the finished job.
- Ask two or three firms for a quote.
- Ask for the work to be covered by an insurance-backed warranty such as the Federation of Masterbuilders' MasterBond warranty.
- Make sure your builder knows what you want by writing down your agreed specification.
- Use a contract.
- Agree in writing to any staged and final payments before work starts.
- Avoid paying cash and do not pay for the whole job up front.
- Avoid adding to the job or changing your mind halfway through.
- If any problems arise, talk about them straight away.

SMART MOVES

■ THE Wimpole Street house where Paul McCartney wrote *I Want to Hold Your Hand* is available to rent. In the Sixties the house was leased by the Asher family. McCartney, who dated Jane Asher until 1968, also lived there and also wrote *We Can Work it Out*; *Here, There and Everywhere*; and *And I Love Her*. The four-bedroom house is for rent through Egerton's Marylebone office for £2,000 a week.

■ THE Old Rectory in Old near Northampton is for sale. Robert Tounson lived there when he was made chaplain to King James I, Dean of Westminster and Bishop of Salisbury. Robert Tounson is remembered among other things for preventing ladies in yellow ruffs or in "mannish attire" from entering the abbey when he was Dean of Westminster. More memorably he was instructed to be alongside Sir Walter Raleigh when he was in prison and also at his death. The house is for sale through Bidwells Northampton for £650,000.

■ THE Sandridge Barton estate on the banks of the River Dart in South Devon is for sale. This was the birthplace of John Davis, the Tudor Arctic explorer who sailed with his party from Dartmouth on June 7, 1575 in two small ships, the *Sunshine* and the *Moonshine*, and discovered the Davis Strait, the passage between Baffin Island in Canada and Greenland. The English were convinced that if you could go around North America you could get to China by a shorter route. He made three trips in all but the Spanish Armada in 1588 interrupted the explorations of not only Davis but also his friends, Sir Humphrey Gilbert and Sir Walter Raleigh. The house is for sale through Knight Frank's Exeter office for £3 million.

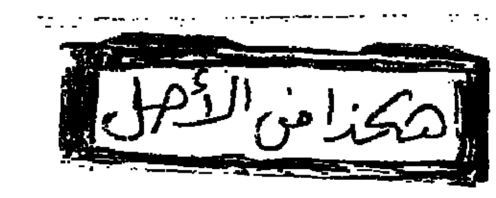
■ A HOUSE in Ibiza designed by the musician Mike Oldfield is for sale. The composer of *Tubular Bells* designed "Atlantis" as a 3D model on his computer and an architect then translated his ideas into reality. Included in the £2.2 million asking price is a 1987 Mercedes C-class saloon, a Jeep Wrangler and a Sunseeker Tomahawk 43 powerboat. Hamptons International is the agent selling the house.

■ THE historic 383-acre estate of St Osyth Priory in Essex is for sale for £1.7 million, down from £2.3 million last year. In 1954 the priory was bought by Somerset de Chair, the soldier, author and Member of Parliament. Mr de Chair had two passions in his life — women and property. He was married four times and had previously owned Chilham Castle in Kent and Trerice Manor in Cornwall. Bidwells is selling the estate. There are opportunities to buy individual properties on the estate as private dwellings.

■ A HOUSE on the Earl of Shelburne's estate at Bowood House near Calne, Wiltshire, is for rent. The Earl of Shelburne is a friend of the Prince of Wales. The grounds at Bowood were landscaped by "Capability" Brown. Soffi Searl, of Knight Frank, says: "The breathtaking beauty of both house and location can only be described as unique. Rarely does a property of such tranquillity and enchanting surroundings come to the market." The house is available for £1,600 a month through Knight Frank's Cirencester office.

■ THE Grove at Sonning, Berkshire, is for sale. The 17th-century Grade II listed house is rumoured to have once been the home of Eisenhower's mistress, Kay Summersby. Grove End, an addition to the house, is also for sale. It was built as a haven for refugees of the French Revolution and has since become a separate home. FPD Savills is selling the Grove for £750,000 and Grove End for £290,000.

BEN WAKEHAM





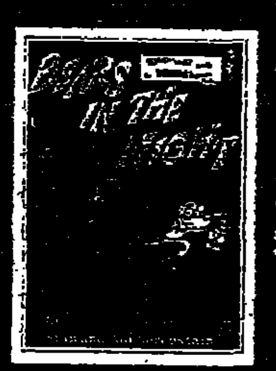
THE TIMES FREE BOOKS SCHOOLS



Offer is extended by one month



Three prizes specially signed by Chris Evans



Why Sally Dexter is in love with Shakespeare





BARRY GREENWOOD

Crisp performance: Keelan Tootell, 4, from Sale in Cheshire, who has amassed more than 2,000 tokens at a rate of more than 100 a week. His mother, Marnee, delivered 500 leaflets to homes asking for their help

Token collectors given extra time

By Hannah Betts

THE *Times* Free Books for Schools offer is being extended by a month after huge demand from the 32,200 schools registered with the scheme.

Saving tokens to exchange for books from the 164 titles available has become something of a national pastime, which will now continue until the end of April.

Letters to *The Times* have told of well-dressed gentlemen raiding litter bins at dawn and children forced into scavenging missions by eager parents. Last week George Mudie, the junior Education Minister, was identified as the mystery purloiner of tokens at the House of Commons.

This Free Books for Schools mania is paying off — 25 million tokens have been redeemed since the scheme started in January, bringing 145,000 new books into classrooms.

The West Midlands is the area with the largest number of tokens redeemed — 2,306,487 — providing the region with 12,925 new books. Wednesbury Oak Primary in Tipton, West Midlands, has the accolade of having redeemed the most tokens so far: 51,800.

The ten most popular books reveal the dominance of primary schools as the most ardent token collectors. *Blitz*, Robert Westall's collection of Second World War stories, tops the list, with almost 5,000 orders.

TOP CHOICES

1 **Blitz**, by Robert Westall - 4,828 orders
2 **Mrs Armitage on Wheels**, by Quentin Blake - 4,500
3 **Bears in the Night**, by Stan and Jan Berenstain - 4,249
4 **Catherine and the Lion**, by Clare Jarret - 4,249
5 **Spacebaby**, by Henrietta Branford - 3,786
6 **Fox in Socks**, by Dr Seuss - 3,749
7 **The Dancing Bear**, by Michael Morpurgo - 3,397
8 **The Butterfly Lion**, by Michael Morpurgo - 3,314
9 **Our Field**, by Berlie Doherty and Robin Bell Corfield - 3,136
10 **Micky and the Twins: The Lost Rabbit**, by Tony Bradman and Susan Winter - 3,135
* *Figures show number of orders so far*

Quentin Blake's *Mrs Armitage on Wheels* and *Bears in the Night*, by Stan and Jan Berenstain, are not far behind.

Clare Jarret's first book, *Catherine and the Lion*, came in at fourth place with 4,120 orders. Mrs Jarret wrote the book for her eldest daughter, Catherine, now aged nine, who is the story's eponymous heroine. Her next work, *Dancing Maddy*, will star Catherine's seven-year-old sister. Both girls have been feverishly collecting tokens and are proud to have Catherine's book in the *Times* top ten.

Michael Morpurgo occupies the opposite professional extreme, having had more than 50 children's books published. The author has the distinction of having two titles in top ten and is a staunch supporter of the Free Books for Schools initiative.

"What is wonderful about this scheme is that it has brought good-quality children's books to schools that otherwise would not have had access to them," Morpurgo said.

"What we need in this country is a culture where libraries are seen as an integral part of every school — not an optional extra should a school be able to afford it."

Morpurgo admires the diversity of interests represented in the scheme. "We have a problem in Britain that reading is thought of as an activity for a certain kind of person. I like the idea that these tokens are found both on packets of crisps and in *The Times* — it helps to dispel these preconceptions. Schools should be flooded with books, so that children can get to grips with the feel, the taste and the smell of them. It is their birthright and their heritage."

It is this shared conviction that has led *The Times* to extend the Free Books for Schools campaign, a fitting enterprise to end a century in which literacy has at last become the right of all the nation's children.

Tokens, pages 24 & 30

Braille titles snapped up

By George Pendle

BLIND children across the country are seizing their chance to gain braille books for their schools.

Braille books cost up to ten times as much as printed books and often wear out after only a few readings as the raised dots are pushed back into the paper, so the chance to get them for as few as 100 tokens in the Free Books for Schools scheme has been warmly welcomed.

Kevin Tansley, the head teacher at the Royal Blind School in Edinburgh, said that most of the school's 118 pupils used braille, despite the advent of computer programs that can enlarge text for partially sighted people or even read it to them.

"The equipment is bulky and expensive and does not offer the independence needed to read for pleasure — you cannot take a scanner to bed with you," he said.

Sue Bennett, the head of braille studies at the Joseph Clark School for the Visually Impaired in London, is equally pleased with the scheme. "We have collected 8,000 tokens so far," she said. "It is very difficult to get hold of braille books otherwise. For instance, a Roald Dahl book would cost us £60."

Sign up for a prize with Chris Evans

THE broadcaster Chris Evans gave his enthusiastic backing yesterday to the relaunch of *The Times* Free Books for Schools scheme.

Evans has signed three books that will be awarded to schools as prizes. *The Amber Cat*, by Hilary McKay, *Spacebaby*, by Henrietta Branford, and *Fox in Socks*, by Dr Seuss, all bearing Evans's words of support, will be awarded in two weeks' time to the schools with the most amusing or imaginative token-collecting strategies. These should be summarised in fewer than 50 words on the back of a postcard.

Evans is unequivocal about the merits of the campaign. "The *Times* scheme is a fantastic idea — schools must keep up their collecting.

"I did not read much as a child, so I am having to catch up now, and believe me it is hard work. If we read more books, the world would be a wittier and happier place."

☐ Entries to win the signed books should be sent to Hannah Betts, *The Times*, Times House, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN, to arrive no later than Friday, April 9.
Entries must include contact name and telephone number.

TOP SCHOOLS

Wednesbury Oak Primary, Tipton, West Midlands (214)
Whitehall Junior, Walsall, West Midlands (170)
St Mark's Primary, Brierly Hill, West Midlands (156)
Hill View Primary, Banbury, Oxfordshire (156)
Richmond Primary, Hinckley, Leicestershire (144)
White Woman Lane Middle, Norwich (144)
Brookhill Leys Junior, Nottingham (127)
Park End Primary, Middlesbrough (122)
West Primary, Paisley (120)
Courthouse Green Primary, Coventry (120)<
*. Figures show number of books received so far

Lighter role for Lady Macbeth

LADY MACBETH may not be everyone's idea of a child-friendly philanthropist. But Sally Dexter, who has been acclaimed for her performance of the role in the West End of London, is proud of the play's status as the most popular of *The Times* Free Books for Schools Shakespeare titles (Hannah Betts writes).

The Queen's Theatre production has proved so popular with youngsters that it has had to ration the number of school parties allowed for every performance. Dexter is thus in a privileged position to judge the play's appeal with the nation's youth. "It's short," she jokes, before adding: "The play shows something extreme, but recognisable. It plugs into a deep void of pessimism that we all possess, but is ultimately a cathartic experience that provokes a great deal of compassion."

Dexter has a contagious enthusiasm for literature. "We really can learn through books. They enrich all our lives and offer a fantastic way to connect us all. I certainly give a huge thumbs up to *The Times* scheme — thumbs, fingers, feet, everything."

Her conviction that young people should be introduced to Shakespeare is that of a convert. "As a child, I thought Shakespeare was a load of old rubbish," she admitted. "I resented Shakespeare because everyone said he was wonderful and I could not even understand him."

The turning point came when she worked with Sir Peter Hall, who passed on an appreciation of the great beauty and logic of Shakespearean verse. "The language can seem like a barrier but, in fact, it is natural for us to speak in verse," she said. "Shakespeare used it because it caught the ear — it provided a hook to make people listen. And the more you respect the structure of the language, the more it reveals things to you.

"We need to show children that Shakespeare is not just about exams. This need not even be through getting them acting; perhaps we could gain their interest by getting them experimenting with their own writing. Most of all we need to convince them that it is fun: Shakespeare's plays are playing with language, above all."

Sally Dexter: won over by Shakespeare's verse

MORE TIME, MORE BOOKS — AND HOW TO GET THEM

THE month-long extension of the Free Books for Schools scheme announced today means that tokens will be carried in *The Times* until April 30.

They will also be available during April in *The Sun*, *News of the World*, *Sunday Times* and on selected packets of Walkers snackfoods.

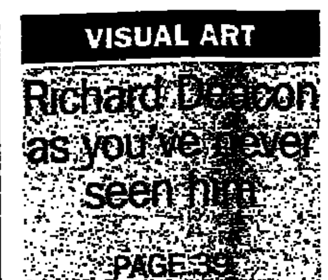
Registration for the scheme closed at the end of February but the extension means the 90 per cent of British schools which have registered with the initiative can continue to build their collections of tokens. There remains no limit on the number of books schools can claim from the list of over 150 titles and the closing date for the receipt of orders remains July 20. Orders will be delivered within 28 days of being received.

If readers do not have a school to collect for, they can ring the Free Books for Schools helpline on 0845 6040312 (calls are charged at local rate) to find out the location of the nearest participating school. This helpline number can also be called to order additional order forms, or to answer any other queries about the scheme.

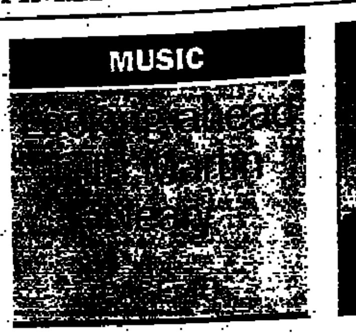
Readers are encouraged to publicise the extension of Free Books for Schools throughout their local communities so that no one gives up collecting just yet.







THE TIMES ARTS





Oscar succumbs to overexposure


DONALD COOPER

Fascinating though he is, has he not fascinated us long enough? Michael Pennington adds yet another Oscar Wilde to an already long list in Moisés Kaufman's *Gross Indecency*

THEATRE

Gross Indecency
Gielgud

Even the security guard in the Gielgud foyer, the grim-faced Cerberus hired to expel or devour interlopers, was sporting a green carnation on the first night of Moisés Kaufman's play. Could there be a better illustration of changing attitudes towards his subject, which is Oscar Wilde? A hundred, fifty, thirty years ago he could be categorised as subversive. Now his plays are endlessly revived, and he is lionised by those who would once have been his foes. Wilde is respected going on respectable.

Yet here's a paradox to worry those who think the function of drama is to ruffle conventional feathers. The less controversial Wilde has become, the more we have seen him. Oscar after Oscar has recently sauntered across our stages and screens: Simon Callow, Stephen Fry, Liam Neeson, Corin Redgrave and the assorted actors who impersonated him in Tom Stoppard's play about Housman, *The Invention of Love*. Myself, I must admit to wondering if, fascinating though he is, he has not fascinated us long enough. Does *Gross Indecency* add enough to the Wilde files to justify bringing it all the way from New York?

Well, any Candide out there who still needs to discover what happened to Wilde in the killer year of 1895 will undoubtedly find the play informative. For others, there are two reasons for considering a trip to the Gielgud. Kaufman's main suggestion, which is that the establishment attack on Wilde was more on his literary works and artistic credo than on his personal morality, is certainly unusual. So is his play's style, which threatens to become aridly Brechtian and yet, let us concede this, introduces a degree of complexity without losing dramatic momentum.

In the orchestra pit, just below Michael Pennington's Wilde and his friends and enemies, sit actors in Pooterish suits. They are, rather literally, footnotes. They switch positions and roles to become Shaw and Frank Harris, dancing prostitutes, rentboys in tatty underwear, even Queen Victoria; but much of the time they give us the scholarly references when Wilde's trials are interrupted by extracts from his writings or by the opinions of those who knew him. They allow us to see the man and his era from different angles; they tell the story of his destruction; they help Kaufman to build up a case that would, however, be more impressive if Wilde's aesthetic philosophy did not come across nowadays as little more than a dated, precious attack on Victorian puritanism.

Add a scene in which a modern prof debates the origins of the concept of "homosexuality", and the evening must sound a bit academic. With James Aubrey's mad, mottled Queensberry hoarsely barking, Clive Francis exuding whiskery sympathy as defence counsel Clarke, and Pennington's admirably cool, humorous, dignified, debonaire Wilde visibly yellowing and crumpling as cataclysm nears, that danger is successfully avoided. But I still left the theatre feeling that I had learnt little new. For all the play's strengths, I felt Oscared out.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Slightly pregnant

An Immaculate Misconception
New End, NW3

Science, as assorted media boffins regularly and ingeniously insist, may well be the new art. But can it make good theatre? On the few occasions when old and new shack up together, they invariably prove uneasy bedfellows. The devil, obviously, is in the detail. Rare, too, is the person who can straddle both forms. More's the pity: finding ways for art to unravel the abstruse for the uninitiated is surely an important and certainly an under-exploited challenge.

Carl Djerassi's thoughtful new play makes some amends. *An Immaculate Misconception* is a fictional account of the first successful fertilisation of a human egg by the direct injection of a single sperm, a technique which has become the principal treatment for male infertility. It does not shirk the science, but sneaks it out in easily ingestible gobbets. Projected films of actual fertilisations help to bring the process to life — and are enthralling enough to all but overshadow the rest of the play.

Djerassi, who has adapted his own novel, certainly writes with authority: he was the man who invented the Pill. But his narrative focuses mainly on the human drama behind the discovery. Reproductive biologist Melanie, the imaginary pioneer, is a childless thirtysomething widow involved with a functionally infertile married man. She secretly makes away with some of his sperm and injects it into her own eggs, to the indignation of her ambitious colleague, Felix. Seeing the prospect of his future fame wriggling away with the uncooperative sperm, Felix adds his own — highly personal — contribution to the mix.

Djerassi mostly maintains interest in his characters' anxieties and affections, while at the same time raising through them a host of intriguing issues about medical ethics, parenthood and the rights of the child. He is much helped by Gordon Greenberg's assured direction and Jonathan Fansom's design, which smoothly sets up all gradations from the intimate to the clinical.

There are two strong and well-judged performances from Susannah Fellows as Melanie and Stephen Greif as the unsuspecting donor. Michael Matus, although convincingly slimy as Felix, gabbles some of his lines, and his character's motives are underdefined.

The script is at fault here; it also lands Toni Palmer with a rather superfluous part as a counsellor from a sperm bank, although she gets the right mix of the motherly and the slightly seedy. That aside, this is a welcome and successful experiment.

NIGEL CLIFF

This is where we came in

Snake
Hampstead, NW3

Offering glimpses of five people living along the Finchley Road, *Snake* is not something they see slithering towards Swiss Cottage but how Rona Munro, the author, sees their stories — a snake with its tail in its mouth: no certain beginning, no evident end.

The play can begin at any one of its four scenes, after which the others follow in sequence; thus each of the four scenes is sometimes the last to be performed, sending the audience away in a different mood. The performance I saw began with two discontented women on the balcony of their tower block and a neighbour, obsessed with one of them, who leaves the tooth he has lost in a fight with her man as a love token outside her door.

In scene two he is pursuing the bird that mistook the tooth for a breadcrumb and swallowed it. The troubled son of the woman he loves bashes him with a baseball bat. Next the boy is seen in the local police station, refusing to speak to his mother until a minicab driver advises her to alter her attitude.

Finally the driver calls at a club to take the other woman back to her flat, and we learn why her eyes were gummed together at the start of the tower block scene. We are back where we started, and so presumably are the characters, although if the play had begun at this club scene and ended with mother and son together, the mood might have been more hopeful.

The technical interest is considerable, and the alternative patterns exercise the mind afterwards, hope, entrapment, violence and farce being the choices these characters face. What one viewing cannot tell is whether the performances change for a different sequence, and raise doubts about the likelihood of successfully playing against the text. Until she placed salted liver over her closed eyes (a magic trick, apparently) I could not relate Lindsey Coulson's assured Ruby to the moaning witterer of the tower block scene.

There is a firmer coherence to the other four, but always a sense that the characters are being made to jump to the author's bidding and make her points about motherhood, fatherhood and the like. Although the direction by Gemma Bodinetz is packed with energetic details, it does not dispel this awkward artificiality.

That said, Terence Maynard delivers his speech on frustrated parenthood with a fierce intensity, and Fiona Bell's peaky Chelle speaks of the boringness of poverty and, elsewhere, of a mother's bond to her child with a conviction that tears at the heart.

JEREMY KINGSTON

MARILYN KINGWILL


Terence Maynard and Lindsey Coulson in one of the scenes from the circular *Snake*

Starred honours

UNIVERSITY College Opera knows no fear, although you might have thought that even a group as ambitious as this one might have quailed before Tchaikovsky's *Mazeppa*, a great, sprawling epic as difficult to play as it is to sing. Thank heavens they didn't: the result was one of the most exciting university productions within living memory.

The work itself grows more impressive with each hearing, technically faultless in unfolding a story through music, and unfolding it with exceptional clarity: for all the brilliance of the orchestration, you can always hear the words. Torture, betrayal, a rattling good public execution, doomed erotic obsession . . . it could almost be by Puccini. But for all the violence on the surface what strikes home is the stream of unforced, tender lyricism. The final scene, with the crazed heroine singing the sweetest of lullabies over her dying lover, is one of the most shattering in 19th-century opera.

OPERA

In the cold light of day, the writing is probably beyond the UCL Orchestra, but the spirit and commitment of their playing under David Drummond swept such details aside.

The producer-designer Netia Davan Wetton staged the action in a non-specific, vaguely constructivist 20th century, although Mazeppa sported Trotsky's beard and Stalin's moustache. Her handling of a lusty chorus of more than 80 on the Bloomsbury's small stage was impressive.

Andrew Slater (Kochubey) led the cast in enunciating the anonymous translation with meaningful clarity; this wonderfully written role of the outraged father nearly upstages that of the eponymous Ukrainian traitor-tyrant, as whom Peter Snipp was audibly struggling with an unannounced indisposition. The mettlesome soprano Rachel Nicholls was tested by some of Maria's big numbers, but rightly saved her best for the closing lullaby-duet, and the same was true of Julian Jensen as her tenor lover. Miriam Murphy was splendidly firm and spirited as her haughty mother.

RODNEY MILNES

GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament

REBECCA CLARKE

Age: 24.

Profession: Actress.

Don't act your age: Last December she collected excellent reviews as nine-year-old Lucy Pevensie in the RSC's *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, which has just transferred to the Barbican from Stratford.

How do you go about playing a middle-class 1930s child? "You put on a clipped, Hayley Mills-type voice, avoid being twee, and concentrate on the honesty and strength that C.S. Lewis gave Lucy. We did a lot of improvisation around a child's fear of being taken away from their parents, or becoming lost."

Animal instincts: Along with Emily Pithon, who plays Susan, the elder Pevensie daughter, she went on a research trip to London Zoo. "We wanted to watch how children interact with animals, as that's a big element of what we do in the play. Kids have tremendous energy and are quite fearless around wild animals. Their instinct is to touch them."

Suddenly everybody's a critic: "It's amazing how excited children become during the show and I've had some great letters from them. But a few of them make comments like: 'I think the lighting in that scene near the end should have been different.' "

Forever young? Her biggest TV part to date came in 1997, playing "a rebellious 17-year-old" who causes trouble for her uncle, a vicar, in the BBC1 children's sitcom *Out of Tune*. "I can't help looking very young. I still occasionally get asked for ID in pubs, and the day I'm cast as a character my own age I'll be cheering."

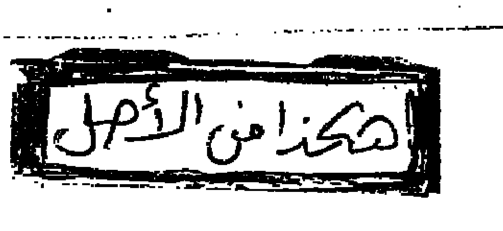
Who turned her on to acting? "Chris Walker, my amazing drama teacher at secondary school in Shropshire. She was like a second mother and a best friend. We're still very close."

Troubled training: "I had very mixed experiences at the Academy of Live and Recorded Arts in London. I considered leaving the course early, after the second year. But I forced myself to knuckle down and make the most of it."

Stick to what you know: "I haven't done much TV, or any film, but I'm pretty sure that I'll always get the biggest buzz from theatre. I just prefer the process: you have time to go into things deeply and improve during the run of a play. With TV, you have to do everything much more quickly."

DANIEL ROSENTHAL







GALLERIES: Richard Cork admires two contemporary artists with designs on the human form

Power of a snake charmer

Sometimes, through an inspired union between a gallery and the work displayed there, art can be transformed by the location it inhabits. Just such an event can now be witnessed at the Tate Liverpool, where **Richard Deacon** is holding his most substantial British exhibition for a decade. Staged on the top floor, a recently opened space offering lofty and airy surroundings, this outstanding survey concentrates largely on unshown sculpture from the 1990s.

I cannot imagine a more sympathetic setting. Large warehouse windows offer beguiling views on to the docks, and provide an ideal context for understanding Deacon's approach. For he operates as a fabricator rather than a modeller or carver, constructing his sculpture with a vigour akin to the shipbuilders who once supplied Liverpool with seaworthy vessels.

The show starts quietly, admitting us to a central chamber lined with ribbed plastic sheets. Hanging from the ceiling, they contain a mass of wriggling, intestinal images — turbulent enough to explain why Deacon calls the series *The Interior's Always More Difficult*. He has been preoccupied with the body ever since his spectacular emergence in the early 1980s. But Deacon never approaches the human form in a literal way. Even at their most swollen and organic, his three-dimensional structures are made with a precision worthy of an engineer.

> ‘His structures are made with an engineer's precision’

They also alter in unpredictable ways as we walk around them. On one side, *Almost Beautiful* presents a laminated wood surface, with spattered glue adding an all-over, painterly texture. Move to the other side of the sculpture, though, and solidity gives way to transparent lightness: a skin of welded polycarbonate billows outwards, playfully contradicting the assertion of substance elsewhere.

Deacon has always been fascinated by the wealth of materials available to the contemporary sculptor. In the latest additions to his sequence of small works called *Art for Other People*, he moves with supple, adroit assurance from oak to polyester resin, or from glass fibre to cardboard. More often than not, heterogeneous materials find themselves yoked together in a single, surprising object: one piece is made from steamed beech and aluminium, while another combines nylon net, linen thread and MDF. But we never feel that these unpredictable combinations are forced or arbitrary. They are all informed by a feeling of sensuous engagement, and Deacon's eye for colour gives them a vivacity that many sculptors fail to command.

As well as reflecting a voracious involvement with language, his titles always enhance the meaning of the work he produces. *New World Order*, the name he has chosen for the entire show, neatly encapsulates the tension informing all his finest work. The surging optimism conveyed by "new world" is pitched against the uncompromising rigour of "order". Throughout the exhibition, Deacon's proliferating fertility is saved from incontinence by a sense of discipline. Even at his most relaxed and intimate, an underlying austerity is still detectable.

Deacon's ability to work on the grand scale becomes spectacularly clear in the final section. Monumental dimensions bring out the most exuberant side of his inventiveness, and the three large works displayed here add up to a triumphant display of sculptural aplomb. But there is nothing tiresomely muscle-flexing about them. *After* unfolds in a roller-coaster series of writhing wooden loops. Undulating across the floor like a restless snake, it is nevertheless stiffened by a rigid metal spine running through the centre. The tension between the two elements is as rewarding as the conflict between freedom and containment in Deacon's great outdoor sculpture on the Warwick University campus.

At first, *What Could Make Me Feel This Way (A)* seems even more expansive and abandoned. The coils of bent wood, all glued and screwed with typical exactitude, have such an explosive impact that they threaten to burst out of the room confining them. The last time I saw this exhilarating sculpture, at Deacon's Hanover exhibition six years ago, it was isolated in the hangar-like vastness of the Orangerie. Here, by contrast, it can be circumnavigated only close to. Perhaps that is why I became more aware of its internal order this time. Perhaps, too, it seemed calmer in comparison with the astonishing, convoluted flourish of *Laocoon*, a truly prodigious sculpture dominating the largest space.

Made in 1996, this eruptive work provides the show with a superb climax. Twisting and stretching its steamed beechwood limbs towards the skylights high above, *Laocoon* manages to be both mysterious and open. Standing near it, and gazing deep into its menacing complexities, I felt that the sculpture might easily engulf me like the serpent crushing its victims in the classical Laocoon carving. At the same time, though, Deacon's expansive brio is enormously invigorating, the work of a 50-year-old sculptor whose spirit is as irrepressible as ever.



Sculptural aplomb at the Tate Liverpool: the steamed beechwood limbs of Richard Deacon's *Laocoon* (1996) threaten to engulf visitors

A far darker vision runs through **Tony Bevan**'s exhibition at the enterprising Abbot Hall Art Gallery in Kendal. Only two years younger than Deacon, Bevan emerged as an impressive young painter soon after leaving the Slade School of Art in 1976. The limpidly installed show at Kendal concentrates on recent work, but his preoccupations remain constant. The human figure is Bevan's theme, often marooned in a brooding blackness.

Many canvases focus on the head alone, and it stretches upwards in one of the most powerful images on view here. A fiercely elongated neck is exposed, scored with harsh lines suggestive of a surgical wound. But they could equally well signify a psychic injury, for the straining man appears to be afflicted by inner torment.

Bevan belongs to a distinguished British tradition in postwar figurative painting. His lonely, anguished people have much in common with Francis Bacon, Lucian Freud and Frank Auerbach. But he is far from derivative. A strong sense of a personal world is created in this relentless exhibition. Unsentimental to the point of bleakness, he never lets us forget the existential stress undergone by the people inhabiting his large canvases. Charcoal is often deployed alongside pigment in these highly linear works, and on the most recent paintings it projects in angular, glistening lumps. The figures occupying these pictures seem stranded and alienated within an impersonal, metropolitan vastness. Mostly, they stay inside the self-imposed limits of a bare room. In the only paintings that stray beyond these limits, he traps us in corridors receding remorselessly into the distance.

Against all the odds, though, this exhibition is far from depressing. Bevan works with admirable conciseness and assurance, never overloading his images with an excess of anxiety. Bevan knows how to convey ambiguity of feeling, nowhere more commandingly than in a large painting called *Horizon*. Red pigment extends in a thick band across the bottom of the canvas. It looks like a sea of blood, and seems to threaten the two macabre heads floating above. Glazed in expression and almost sightless, they flounder there like swimmers in danger of drowning. But despite everything inflicted on them in Bevan's turbulent art, they remain resilient. Over and above his exploration of suffering and loneliness, he ends up affirming the fundamental will to survive.

● *Richard Deacon is at the Tate Liverpool (0151-709 0507) until May 16; Tony Bevan is at Abbot Hall Art Gallery, Kendal (01539 722464) until April 11*

AROUND THE GALLERIES

ABOUT 25 years ago a teenaged boy accosted Bob Marley outside a London club. The reggae singer was almost unknown in Britain at the time, but the 14-year-old knew his music because his West Indian parents played it at home. "Hey, you talk funny," he said to Marley. "So do you," the musician replied. He had never come across a black person with a London accent before.

A friendship was born of this encounter and it is this which shows most clearly in **Dennis Morris**'s current photographic show. From that day, when he bunked off school to accompany Marley on tour, through the 1970s when the Wailers returned to Britain, this time as stars, Morris has toured with the band. His photographs have all the sharpness and spontaneity of reportage. But most salient is the sense of intimacy which comes across, the relaxed humour and gentle ease of friends.

Proud Galleries, 5 Buckingham St, WC2 (0171-839 4942) until April 30

☐ **Ken Currie** translates raw and painful realities into ethereal images that haunt the consciousness. A photograph of a fatally wounded child inspires a series of spectral portraits articulating the grief of the parent. Bruised faces and swaddled forms float across canvases. Mouths stretch open, and eye-sockets bleed darkness. Decrepit old men crouching over their fags in a hostel inspire frail figure studies. A series of three paintings portray, in almost forensic detail, the damage which can be done to a face. There is an eerie atmosphere to this show, the calm insistence of a pain which refuses to dissolve into consolation.

Boukamel Contemporary Art, 9 Cork St, W1 (0171-734 6444) until April 24

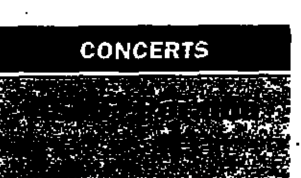
☐ FROM an archive of hundreds of thousands of photographs by **Terence Donovan**, *The Eye That Never Sleeps* extracts a manageable selection of those considered to represent the changing face of London over the past four decades. When this is not the face of fame — of artists, actors, authors and aristos — it is, on the whole, a smart, streetwise, fashionable face. It knows it is being watched through the photographer's lens and composes itself appropriately.

But beyond the immaculate make-up, the tailored poses, an edge of self-awareness gleams. Is Donovan mocking the dark and deadly serious women in silly hats? At the beginning of the show, alongside a portrait of the artist, a row of gap-toothed East End kids are shown doubled up with giggles at the sight of the mannequin who poses behind them, tottering on her kitten heels.

Museum of London, 150 London Wall, EC2 (0171-600 3699) until Aug 1

RACHEL CAMPBELL-JOHNSTON

Politely perfect



CONCERTS

Thirty years ago, Mozart's C major Piano Concerto, K467, usually arrived saddled with the tag *Elvira Madigan*, after a once-revered Swedish film that spooned its slow movement over a horrible soft-focus romance. In 1980 Denis Matthews wrote on an LP sleeve-note: "The slow movement has acquired an independent fame," but sniffily declined to give details. Now it is as though the film never existed. No mention anywhere.

Only Mozart remains; and with Murray Perahia directing the Academy of St Martin-in-the-Fields from the keyboard, that is all anyone should need.

The Academy's muted violins and plucked double basses were born to play that movement's opening, and they spun out its cantabile line with gossamer delicacy. Then Perahia stole in, twinkling like a star in the night sky. Both here and in the B-flat concerto, K595, he rightly made the tender slow movements the performances' focal point: this was, after all, a concert in Sir William Glock's Mozart series "From the Heart". And he made the most — indeed almost too much — of the minor key passages elsewhere, dark clouds invading sunshine. Perhaps Perahia was simply relishing a chance to play unhampered, without the need to stand up, conduct the players circled around, and flip his tailcoat back over the stool in time for the piano's next entry.

What of the music's other phases? The last movement of K467 was a whirlwind of vigour and joy, fingers dancing up the keyboard. The same spirit radiated through K595's finale, with its rondo theme fit for a nursery rhyme. Throughout, the orchestra was in near-perfect accord (woodwinds especially shone): though the platform arrangement left the timpanist marooned in his contributions to K467, especially the allegro maestoso.

For all these delights, you can have too much polite perfection in a single concert. How pleasant, then, to welcome the flawed *Vesperae Solennes de Confessore*, K339, performed with the Academy Chorus under its conductor Laszlo Heltay.



Keyboard conductor: pianist Murray Perahia

Unlike a mass setting, vespers need not aspire to unity; and Mozart's Solemn Vespers are truly higgledy-piggledy pieces, in assorted keys. In a concert performance this can be disconcerting, but the buoyant, clear tone of the Academy Choir brought its own unity. The soprano Inger Dam-Jensen proved lackustre in the Vespers' hit number, *Laudate Dominum*; and the three other soloists were little more than a back-up group.

GEOFF BROWN

Young superstars

Jerusalem Quartet
Wigmore Hall

Word had got around. The eldest player was just 21; they had already performed halfway round the world, collected an armful of competition prizes, made their first disc. There was standing room only at Saturday's recital by the young Jerusalem Quartet, founded six years ago and now giving its first full programme at the Wigmore Hall as part of the Young Masters series.

And what a programme it was: from Haydn's *Sunrise* to Shostakovich's sunset and on, still further, to Beethoven's Op 130 String Quartet with the Grosse Fuge. The sheer imaginative virtuosity of Haydn's opening of his Quartet Op 76 No 4 — sonority more than theme, with the music taking form almost in spite of itself — was equalled by that of the players. Their intensity of listening made an immediate mark and developed into the finest shading and modulating of voices.

Alexander Pavlovsky leads with an authority which is never over-bright, over-dominant. Characterising details like the teasing rhythmic push-and-pull they set up in the Menuet, or the supple, barline-dissolving metre of their final dance, emerged as if through spontaneous reactions from second to second.

The players' own Russian roots seemed to draw nourishment from the central Shostakovich Quartet, No 8 in C minor, Op 110. This is the composer composing himself, no less: his own DSCH monogram is all-pervasive; and a dark web of self-quotation draws the receptive listener deep into his innermost psyche. The Jerusalem Quartet, aware of the work's weight, paced themselves carefully.

They could, perhaps, have torn still more savagely at the monogram motif in the *molto*. But their sharp-eyed, deft-fingered augmentation and diminution of that motif as the work progressed created a crazed hall of mirrors in which Shostakovich's name and his very self were refracted and revealed. The composer was apparently deeply moved by an early private performance of the work by the Borodin Quartet: there are signs of a comparable depth of perception here, a burgeoning sense of similarly great things to come already in this young quartet's playing.

That sense was confirmed by the Beethoven. Yet another visionary opening, understood and recreated as such; a most thoughtfully paced third movement; a wide-eyed Cavatina, still awaiting the gravitas of maturity; and a final *Grosse Fuge* whose palpable physical struggle only reinforced the spiritual one at its heart.

HILARY FINCH

Slipshod spotlight

If one young soloist wants to play Copland's Clarinet Concerto and the other wants to sing Mahler's *Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen* there is a problem. How do you integrate those two works into a programme that adds up to a concert? Whatever the answer, it is certainly not to begin with Mendelssohn's *Hebrides* Overture, to stick Mozart's *Salzburg* Divertimento in D in the middle and to end with Dvořák's *Scherzo Capriccioso*.

Feeble response to a professional challenge though it was, that programme did at least fulfil its primary function in providing a showcase for the two soloists chosen as the latest beneficiaries of Akzo Nobel's sponsorship of promising young musicians. Working with **David Zinman** and the **Philharmonia** before a big audience in Birmingham Symphony Hall must have been a valuable experience for both of them but particularly perhaps for Guang Yang who, although she won the Cardiff Singer of the World competition two years ago, has more to gain from this kind of exposure. The Swedish clarinettist Martin Fröst is already a highly accomplished concerto soloist.

The Chinese mezzo might now be wondering why she chose a Mahler cycle that so clearly exposes the weakness of her bottom register. Remarkably sure in pitch, conscientious in her German pronunciation, she was nonetheless out of place in this particular score.

The one worrying aspect of Fröst's performance of Copland's Clarinet Concerto was his choreography. His tendency to move about as he played brought him perilously close to the violinist behind him who, had she not shrunk further and further away, might well have found him in her lap. If Fröst's performance had been any less compelling — above all in its control over line and colour in the first movement and its technical and idiomatic brilliance in the second — the temptation to ask him to look where he was going might have been irresistible.

With a conductor as masterful as Zinman and a need for something like Schubert's Symphony in D minor before the Mahler and, say, a Stravinsky ballet score after the Copland, it was frustrating to hear the Philharmonia pursuing a different agenda in Mendelssohn and Dvořák, attractively though they performed it. As for the Mozart, it was as inexplicable in its presence as they were professional in its execution.

GERALD LARNER

■ **LISTINGS**
Volpone in Stratford

ARTS

■ **DANCE**
Transatlantic letdown

RECOMMENDED TODAY

Guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Marit Hargie

LONDON

GOB: Jason Orange (ex-Take That) and Tom Hayes, with Spike as DJ, star in Jim Kenworth's punk-rave-anarchistic attack on high culture. James Martin Charlton directs for Friendly Fire.
King's Head (0171-226 1916). Opens tonight, 7.30pm.

CHAMBER ORCHESTRA OF EUROPE: Piano virtuoso Martha Argerich joins this fine collective of European musicians for Chopin's First Piano Concerto. Emmanuel Krivine conducts a programme which also includes Fauré and Beethoven.
Barbican (0171-638 8891). Tonight, 7.30pm.

SONG RECITAL: Rising young American baritone Nathan Gunn offers an evening of Schubert Lieder followed by American song by Ives, Rorem, Bolcom and Gene Scheer. With Kevin Murphy on the piano.
Wigmore Hall (0171-935 2141). Tonight, 7.30pm.


Jason Orange stars in *Gob* at the King's Head

ELSEWHERE

LIVERPOOL: Seattle Symphony conductor Gerard Schwarz leads the Royal Liverpool Orchestra and Chorus in a performance of Elgar's powerful *The Dream of Gerontius*. With soloists Penelope Walker, Artur Davies and Stephen Roberts.
Philharmonic Hall (0151-709 3789). Tonight, 7.30pm.

MANCHESTER: Soprano Catherine Bott and her four co-soloists get into 18th-century gear for that authentic period feel as they join the Mozart Festival Orchestra and Chorus for an evocative candle-lit performance of *Messiah*. Handel's choral masterpiece is directed from the harpsichord by Christopher Moulds.
Bridgewater Hall (0161-907 9000). Tonight, 7.30pm.

NEWCASTLE: Mouth-watering French flavours are on offer as the Northern Sinfonia, under Nicholas Kraemer, performs pieces by Lully, Ravel, Fauré and Rameau. Also included is the UK premiere of John Casken's *Apres un silence*.
City Hall (0191-261 2606). Tonight, 7.45pm.

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON: Malcolm Storry stars in the title role of Volpone with Guy Henry as his aide, scheming gold out of the foolish in Jonson's comedy. Lindsay Posner directs.
Swan (01789 295623). Opens tonight, 7pm.

NEW WEST END SHOWS

Jeremy Kingston's choice of theatre showing in London
■ House full, returns only ◪ Some seats available □ Seats at all prices

◪ **GOOD:** C.P. Taylor's best play, tracing a liberal professor's gradual descent into working with the Nazis. Charles Dance heads a strong cast. Michael Grandage directs.
Donmar (0171-369 1732).

□ **TROILUS AND CRESSIDA:** Trevor Nunn and John Caird direct black Trojans and white Greeks, with Peter de Jersey and Sophie Okonedo as the doomed lovers.
Olivier (0171-452 3000).

□ **GROSS INDECENCY:** The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde: Michael Pennington plays Wilde, with William Hoyland and Clive Francis as counsel for and against, in Moises Kaufman's play.
Gielgud (0171-494 5065).

□ **A LOVELY SUNDAY FOR CREVE COEUR:** Late Tennessee Williams play where four thirtysomething women do and don't want to go for a lakeside picnic. Jenny Sealey directs for Graeae Theatre.
Drill Hall (0171-637 8270).

□ **SNAKE.** Interesting play by Rona Munro, snaking round the experiences of five people whose lives interconnect along the Finchley Road. Gemma Bodinetz directs.
Hampstead (0171-722 9301).

□ **ANIMAL CRACKERS:** Ben Keaton, Joe Alessi and Toby Sedgwick play the three maniacs in a stage version of the Marx Brothers movie. For addicts only.
Lyric (0171-494 5045).

□ **SLAVA'S SNOWSHOW:** The excellent mime artist Slava Polunin returns, with new material as well as his unforgettable finale.
Piccadilly Theatre (0171-369 1734).

◪ **MACBETH:** Rufus Sewell and Sally Dexter play the superstitious thane and his missis in John Crowley's production.
Queens, W1 (0171-494 5041).

□ **ENEMIES:** Isaac Beshevis Singer's story of a Holocaust survivor in New York, troubled by women past and present. First written as a play, then a novel, now a play again. John Wright directs.
Young Vic Studio (0171-928 6363).

FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE

James Christopher's choice of the latest movies

NEW RELEASES

ARLINGTON ROAD (15): Nerve-shredding thriller with a magnificent performance by Jeff Bridges as a paranoid professor who thinks his neighbour, Tim Robbins, is hatching a terrorist conspiracy. Mark Pellington directs.

WAKING NED (PG): It's *Lottery Galore!* for a small village in this slushy Irish fable about a corpse in charge of a winning lottery ticket. With Ian Bannen and David Kelly. Kirk Jones directs

SEUL CONTRE TOUS (I STAND ALONE) (18): Brutal, stomach-churning voyage through a French butcher's life. Philippe Nahon puts in a monumental performance in Gaspar Noe's ghastly, nihilistic experiment.

A NIGHT AT THE ROXBURY (15): Will Ferrell and Chris Kattan, aka the Butabi brothers, are routinely kneed in the groin by girls with big cleavages. Awful nightclub comedy from John Fortenberry

SOUTHPAW (15): Gripping documentary about Ireland's first traveller boxing champ, Francis Barrett, who graduated from a caravan site to the Atlanta Olympics. Liam McGrath directs

CURRENT

PATCH ADAMS (12): Robin Williams stars in this absurd medical movie about a doctor who wants to cure the world with laughter. Director Tom Shadyac extracts an obscene amount of sentiment with little anaesthetic.

PLEASANTVILLE (12): Ingenious spoof of American family values. Two dysfunctional 1990s teenagers get sucked into a squeaky-clean 1950s TV soap. Great performances from Tobey Maguire, Jeff Daniels and Reese Witherspoon.

BELOVED (15): Oprah Winfrey is surprisingly powerful as a runaway slave haunted by poltergeists, lynch mobs, and a dead daughter. Jonathan Demme's overlong film fails, however, to get inside the festering heart of Toni Morrison's Pulitzer Prize winner.

THE THIN RED LINE (15): A glittering cast of American soldiers lose their sanity in the South Pacific during the Second World War. Terrence Malick's artistic masterpiece stars Sean Penn, Jim Caviezel, Ben Chaplin, Nick Nolte.

YOU'VE GOT MAIL (PG): Bullet-proof romantic blockbuster with Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan who fall in love on the Internet. Written and directed by Nora Ephron.

A year of good grace

MUSIC: Martin Neary tells **Richard Morrison** about life after Westminster


PETER TREVNOR
Martin Neary with his wife, Penny, at the height of last year's bitter public dispute with the Dean of Westminster Abbey

It isn't exactly central to his repertoire, but Martin Neary has surely drawn inspiration during these past few traumatic months from the old Jerome Kern song: "Pick yourself up, dust yourself down, start all over again." Exactly a year ago he was suspended from his job, the grandest in all musical Christendom. He was organist of Westminster Abbey, a post once held by Henry Purcell. He had maintained an immaculate choral tradition. He had masterminded brilliant aural backcloths to majestic ceremonies, most famously the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales. And, as a notable champion of modern British composers such as Jonathan Harvey and John Tavener, he had done much to ensure that the Anglican Church continued to have a living musical tradition.

All this counted for nothing when a new Dean, Wesley Carr, decided to make an issue of alleged financial irregularities in the relationship between the Nearys (Martin's wife, Penny, handled the choir paperwork) and the abbey. The dispute was bitter, protracted and horribly public: a dire advertisement for the Church's professed belief in forgiveness and humility. Its conclusion, following a convoluted ruling by a High Court judge, was crushing. Neary, a cathedral organist for more than 30 years, was ignominiously ejected from the world he loved.

Many in the Church felt that, whatever the murky facts, this was a disgraceful way to treat one of Anglican music's most diligent and loyal servants. How on earth did this mild man survive, let alone bounce back with the vigour of a boxer stung by a blow below the belt?

"I don't see how anybody could have gone through that process without feeling hurt," Neary says. "But we have been sustained, first, because we have faith — faith in our faith, and faith in ourselves — and secondly because we have had amazing, unrelenting support, day in and day out. We feel incredibly humbled by it. Only the other day I had a card from a cricket-loving friend who said: 'Whenever I see the third umpire making a nonsense of a decision, I think of your experience.' Joan Rodgers, Ian Bostridge, Paul Daniel and Julius Drake are even putting on a benefit concert for us, on May 9 at the Barbican. I'm very touched that such stars feel so strongly."

Perhaps the most distressing moment came when the Nearys had to quit the abbey organist's traditional house, in the Cloisters. "We'd done 16 years at Winchester Cathedral and more than a decade at the abbey, so we'd been members of closed communities for a long time. Luckily we had bought a place in Fulham, knowing that the time would eventually come when we would need it. We didn't anticipate it would be quite so soon."

Remarkably, Neary believes that good may yet come out of the sorry mess. "As a result of the most unwelcome publicity the whole matter of security of tenure for cathedral musicians may well be improved," he thinks. He also says that he harbours no bitterness towards the abbey. "I was blessed with the privilege of working there for 11 years, and obviously if things had gone differently I'd have stayed there for another six or seven. We will never say anything to put down the abbey."

Even so, it is with some relish that Neary lists the work he has been offered since leaving Westminster. The inference is clear. If he was untrustworthy, as the abbey charged, he would be shunned by the rest of the Church and the music profession. But the reverse appears to be true. "I have been asked by the Royal School of Church Music to be a consultant for its new Millennium Youth Choir, which is very much the initiative of the Archbishop of Canterbury," Neary says. "I'm flattered and honoured that he should want me involved. I'm also doing lots of organ recitals this summer, then I'm off to Australia to work with the Australian Youth Choir."

And Neary is also in demand to conduct the modern English music with which he is so much associated. Tomorrow, for instance, he steers Sinfonia 21 and the BBC Singers through one of the most striking pieces of sacred music written since 1945: Jonathan Harvey's "church opera" *Passion and Resurrection*, which Neary commissioned and premiered when he was at Winchester in 1981.

The piece, says Neary, had originally been intended for Canterbury, "but the more they heard about it the more alarmed they got. It's certainly not your average choral society passion. There are an awful lot of difficult things for the performers. But the work also has wonderful lyricism and power. Indeed, for all its avant-garde moments, the Resurrection part has a Verdi-like flamboyance. I think it's Jonathan's most approachable piece."

Neary maintains that he is now having a "fantastic time" conducting such events: concerts that might never have come his way if he had stayed at Westminster. But ask him whether he will ever go back into cathedral life — even after the demeaning events of last year — and his eyes light up. "I think it's highly probable, yes. Some things about cathedral life I miss enormously: the very special rapport with the choristers, for instance. So I'm keeping all options open."

Meanwhile, if it isn't too blasphemous a thought, conducting a piece called *Passion and Resurrection* seems an appropriate way to close the book on the worst year of his life.

● Passion and Resurrection *is at St John's, Smith Square (0171-222 1061), tomorrow at 7.30pm*

Not worth the trip

This is the third year that Woking has hosted its international dance festival and the lineup is usually impressive. But the festival's main foreign draw this time around has been a big letdown: Doug Varone and Dancers, a New York-based company which gave two performances at the New Victoria Theatre at the end of a fortnight's residency in Woking.

Varone and his ensemble have been kicking around for years. They are currently celebrating their thirteenth season with performances in America, Europe and Asia. The programme they brought to Woking Dance Umbrella last weekend offered three pieces choreographed by Varone in the 1990s. What do they tell us about this durable American? That he likes good music. And that he makes bad dances.

DANCE
Doug Varone
Woking

Let's Dance, set to a wonderful selection of classic swing era recordings from Benny Goodman to Rosemary Clooney, is the kind of piece that wants to let you know it's having a good time up there on stage. The ensemble, who come in a pleasing variety of shapes and sizes, are full of bounce, making merry in what could be a spontaneous dance-fest by a party of teenagers who have just discovered their parents' jazz collection. But so unstructured and unfocused is the energetic choreography that it feels as if the dancers are making it up as they go along — and that they are fast running out of ideas.

Rise (1993) is apparently regarded as Varone's "breakthrough piece". What a surprise. As other choreographers have already proved, John Adams's *Fearful Symmetries* can really excite a stage. Varone, however, ignores the rousing rhythms in Adams's driven score. Instead of imaginative interplay with the music he opts for a kind of mechanical accompaniment, leaving his eight dancers to spin and dip through the shapeless sponge of his impoverished physical language.

Larking about to opera is something of a dance cliché, although with wit and intelligence it can be made to work. Varone's *Bel Canto*, set to the well-decorated sounds of Bellini's opera *Norma*, is an attempt at ballet parody that falls flat on its silly mugging faces. Worst of all is the all-male pas de deux for Larry Hahn and Varone himself, which comes across as little more than a nauseatingly cutesy display of camp histrionics.

DEBRA CRAINE

Court of Appeal — Law Report March 24 1999 — Court of Appeal

Deciding where employee works

Carver v Saudi Arabian Airlines

Before Lord Justice Beldam, Lord Justice Ward and Lord Justice Mantell

[Judgment March 17]

In deciding where an employee "ordinarily works" for the purposes of section 196(2) of the Employment Rights Act 1996, regard had to be *paid to the whole contemplated period* of the contract and not simply to some lesser period within that whole period.

It followed that a flight attendant working under a contract made subject to the laws of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, who trained *in Jeddah and* later worked in India before being transferred to London, was based in Jeddah.

The Court of Appeal so held in dismissing an appeal by the plaintiff, Mrs Lourdes Carver, from a decision of the Employment Appeal Tribunal on February 18, 1998, upholding a decision of an industrial tribunal on December 5, 1996, that it had no jurisdiction to hear the plaintiff's complaint that she had been constructively dismissed in breach of section 94(1) of 1996 Act. The question of jurisdiction under section 6 of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 was remitted to a differently constituted industrial tribunal.

Mr David Bean, QC and Mr Thomas Linden for Mrs Carver; Mr Timothy Brennan for Saudi Arabian Airlines.

LORD JUSTICE MANTELL *said that Mr Justice Morison, President* of the Employment Appeal Tribunal, had observed that the *law* was not altogether clear and suggested that the Court of Appeal should have an opportunity to give further guidance to tribunals who had to decide whether claims under the 1996 and 1975 Acts were within their jurisdiction.

If the words "does his work wholly or mainly outside Great Britain" in section 10 of the 1975 Act were to be given the same meaning as "engaged in work wholly or mainly outside Great Britain" as used in section 196 of the 1996 Act, it would follow that the place where a person wholly or mainly worked was not necessarily the same place as where he ordinarily worked under his contract of employment.

*Lest it be suggested that the nice*ness of any such distinction might not have been apparent to Parliament in 1975 it had to be remembered that section 9(1) of the Contracts of Employment Act 1963 and section 12(1) of the Contracts of Employment Act 1972 each excluded portions of the Act in relation to "employment during any period when the employee is engaged in work wholly or mainly outside Great Britain unless the employee ordinarily works in Great Britain and the work outside Great Britain is for the same employer": a point to which Lord Justice Megaw was fully alive as would be seen when *Wilson v Maynard Shipbuilding Consultants AB* ([1978] ICR 376) was considered later.

So it was his Lordship's opinion that the use of different language was deliberate and that a distinction might have to be drawn between where a person ordinarily worked and the place where he wholly or mainly did his work. The distinction was one to be kept in mind when considering the main point in the appeal; namely what meaning had to be given to section 196(2) of the 1996 Act.

The right of an employee not to be unlawfully dismissed was formerly contained in paragraph 4 of Schedule 1 of the Trade Union and Labour Relations Act 1974. Paragraph 9(2) provided: "Paragraph 4 above does not apply to any employment where under his contract of employment the employee ordinarily works outside Great Britain."

There was no material difference between paragraph 9(2) and section 196(2). The meaning of para 9(2) had been considered by the Court of Appeal on three previous occasions.

The first was *Wilson v Maynard Shipbuilding Consultants AB*. Lord Justice Megaw, giving the judgment of the court, said (at p384): "In deciding whether or not under his contract of employment the employee ordinarily works outside Great Britain, does one look to the terms of contract or to what has actually happened during the employment? What are the criteria by which the tribunal is to decide a disputed question as to where the employee 'ordinarily works under his contract of employment'?"

The first approach had been usefully characterised by Mr Justice Morison as the "contract test" and the second as the "function test". In *Wilson* the court came down on the side of the "contract test".

Lord Justice Megaw said (at p385): "The answer is that one must look at the terms of the contract express or implied ... This meaning conforms with the grammatical structure of paragraph 9(2). The present tense is used: 'ordinarily works'. If it had been intended to relate the decision to what had happened up to the time of dismissal, the present tense would be inappropriate.

"This construction also conforms, we believe, with good sense. It means that that question whether or not this important statutory right exists is settled at, and can be ascertained by reference to, the time of the making of the contract."

The "contract test" was affirmed in *Janata Bank v Ahmed (Qutubuddin)* ([1991] ICR 791).

In *Todd v British Midland Airways Ltd* ([1978] ICR 959) a former pilot employed on international flights claimed unfair dismissal. The industrial tribunal declined jurisdiction and their decision was upheld by the appeal tribunal. Mr Todd appealed successfully to the Court of Appeal.

Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, referred to *Wilson* with approval but then continued (at p964): "But in other cases there is more difficulty. I refer particularly to the type of case we have here of the airline pilot. He is based in Great Britain but works for the *greater part of the time overseas* ... In those circumstances Megaw LJ and his colleagues departed from the literal words of paragraph 9(2) and adopted a liberal approach.

"This court adopted what may be called the 'base test'. Megaw LJ said: 'It is, in the absence of special factors leading to a contrary conclusion, the country where his base is to be which is likely to be the place where he is to be treated as ordinarily working under his contract of employment.'

"The 'base test' ... is a good sensible way of overcoming the literal meaning of the words 'ordinarily working' in the statute ... You have to go by the conduct of the parties and the way they have been operating the contract. You have to find at the material time where the man is based."

Mr Bean argued that "the material time" referred to by Lord Denning must mean the time at which the claim for unfair dismissal arose and that the plaintiff was clearly based in London at the material time.

His Lordship did not take issue with Mr Bean's reading of Lord Denning's judgment in *Todd*. But Lord Denning's enlargement of the *Wilson* principles was unnecessary for the decision in *Todd* which, as was held by Sir David Cairns in that case, could be decided on a strict application of the test laid down by Lord Justice Megaw.

Like Sir David Cairns, his Lordship considered that *Wilson* and *Janata Bank* were binding on the court as they were upon the tribunal which was, therefore, obliged to consider the position as it was at the date of the contract. So viewed it was clear that the plaintiff's base could be nowhere other than Jeddah.

His Lordship would also reject Mr Bean's submission that the contract test was met because the contract contemplated transfers of the kind to which the appellant was *subjected*.

In *Wilson*, Lord Justice Megaw asked (at p386): "But what is to happen if ... an implied term of the contract leaves it to the employer's discretion as to whether the work should be carried out wholly in Great Britain or wholly outside Great Britain or for some period or periods in one place and for another period or other periods in other places?"

He provided this answer: "It necessarily follows, *that* to decide where an employee 'ordinarily works' one must look to the contract and to the whole contemplated period of the contract, and not simply to some lesser period within that whole period."

Under the 1975 Act the position was quite different. The tribunal had to consider where at the time of the alleged discrimination the plaintiff was "wholly or mainly" working: see *Haughton v Olau Line (UK) Ltd* ([1986] ICR 357).

However, the tribunal decided jurisdiction on where the appellant was ordinarily working. That was impermissible.

His Lordship would be minded, therefore, to remit the question of jurisdiction to a tribunal, differently constituted, to determine the question of jurisdiction. To that extent only he would allow the appeal.

Lord Justice Ward gave a concur*ring judgment and Lord Justice* Beldam agreed.

Solicitors: Pattinson Brewer; Clifford Chance.

Lender's security clause does not breach EC law

***Citibank International plc v* Kessler and Another**

Before Lord Justice Kennedy, Lord Justice Chadwick and Lord Justice Laws

[Judgment March 10]

A standard clause in a domestic mortgage by which the borrower agreed not to let the mortgaged property without the prior written consent of the lender did not contravene article 48 of the EC Treaty which guaranteed freedom of movement for workers within the Community.

The Court of Appeal so held, allowing the appeal of the plaintiff, Citibank International plc, against the refusal by Judge Catlin in Reading County Court on September 15, 1998 of the bank's application to strike out certain paragraphs of the re-amended defence of Sigurd Peter Thaddeus Kessler and Liv Kessler in possession proceedings brought by Citibank as mortgagee of Wild Edge, The Ridges, Finchamstead, Wokingham, Berkshire.

Mr and Mrs Kessler were German nationals. They came to the United Kingdom for Mr Kessler to set up the United Kingdom subsidiary of BMW. They purchased the property as their home, borrowing over £220,000 from Citibank in 1988.

The mortgage contained a standard covenant by the mortgagor not to lease the property without the prior written consent of the mortgagee. Mr Kessler returned to Germany to work in 1991, and fell into arrears with the mortgage repayments.

The house had become *unsaleable because of structural defects* and an unresolved boundary dispute and could not be remortgaged, but Citibank refused to permit a letting of the property.

As a result Mr Kessler could not afford to remain in Germany, and also had to refuse work there in 1994. Citibank began possession proceedings in 1994.

In a re-amended defence Mr and Mrs Kessler alleged that a term should be implied into the mortgage that Citibank would not unreasonably withhold its consent to a lease and that article 48 of the EC Treaty, which guaranteed freedom of movement for workers within the Community, prevailed over the legal charge.

Mr and Mrs Kessler counterclaimed for loss of rent and loss of earnings of about £400,000. Citibank's application to strike out those parts of the defence was refused. Citibank appealed.

Mr David Vaughan, QC and Mr Richard Mawhinney for Citibank; Mr Peter Duffy, QC, for Mr and Mrs Kessler.

LORD JUSTICE CHADWICK said that the relevant questions of the defence turned on the question whether, and if so what, reliance could be placed on article 48 of the EC Treaty in the context of a domestic mortgage over property in England.

Article 48 provided for freedom of movement for workers within the Community. The scope of article 48 had been considered by the European Court of Justice in *Walrave and Koch v Association Union Cycliste Internationale* (Case 36/74) ([1974] ECR 1405) and *Union Royale Belge des Sociétés de Football Association ASBL v Bosman* (Case C-415/93) ([1995] ECR I-4921).

Both were cases in which the relevant rules were aimed at regulating in a collective manner gainful employment and the provision of services.

Nevertheless, Mr Duffy submitted that a provision which had neither of those characteristics, in an agreement between individual persons or undertakings, could none the less be struck down as incompatible with article 48; alternatively, could give rise to a tortious liability *in damages against a party* who sought to rely upon it.

A provision excluding the borrower's statutory power of leasing without the lender's prior consent was generally included in an institutional mortgage.

The term was required to protect the mortgagee's security: in that it prevented the mortgaged property becoming encumbered with an unwanted tenancy which could, particularly in property in residential occupation, adversely affect his ability to exercise the remedies of possession and sale.

The circumstances said to give rise to the need to imply the proposed term occurred after the charge was executed.

His Lordship found it impossible to understand how events subsequent to the execution of the legal charge could be relied on as a basis for implying a contractual term into the transaction effected by that charge.

Those matters could not have any relevance to the question of whether there was such a term.

There was no material distinction, in relation to freedom of movement within the Community, between a German national, based temporarily in England, who wished to return to Germany and a United Kingdom national, who had lived in England all his life, who wished to relocate to Germany to take up employment.

If the defence were right and the *term* were to be implied into this mortgage there was no reason why it should not be implied, also, into every other domestic mortgage which contained a covenant by the mortgagor not to exercise his statu*tory powers of leasing without the* prior consent of the mortgagee.

There remained the question of whether the provisions of article 48 were incompatible with the exercise by Citibank of the power to withhold consent to a letting of the mortgaged property where with*holding consent would hinder the* free movement of the borrower, as a worker, within the Community.

There was no support in *Walrave* or *Bosman* for the contention that there was incompatibility. Clause 2.17.2 of the mortgage conditions was not aimed at regulating employment; and the mortgage conditions were not part of some collective arrangement.

There was nothing which could be said to infringe article 48(2) or (3).

The obstacle which faced Mr Kessler was that he was unable to take on the new financial commitments which a move to Germany would have entailed without discharging his existing financial commitments under the bank's legal charge.

The obstacle existed because he had taken on financial commitments the *performance* of which was protected by fetters over the way he could deal with that property imposed for the protection of Citibank.

The obstacle was Citibank's wish to rely on its own judgment as to the continuing need to protect its security. That was simply not the sort of obstacle to which article 48 *was directed*.

Mr Kessler took on financial commitments to Citibank to acquire a house in England so that he could take up employment here. Citibank was willing to lend to him on terms which gave it the protection it required. That facilitated his freedom of movement at the time.

But there was a danger that banks would be less willing to lend to those whose occupation was such that they might move between member states to seek employment, if there were a risk that provisions included in the loan documentation to protect the lender would be held unenforceable in those circumstances.

Far from promoting freedom of movement for workers, by facilitating the ability to obtain funds for the acquisition of residential property *in any member state in which* they were working, the construction Mr Duffy urged would be likely to impede such freedom of movement.

Lord Justice Kennedy and Lord Justice Laws agreed.

Solicitors: Salans Hertzfeld & Heilbronn HRK, Moorgate; Mailland Walker, Minehead.

Public interest defence to breach of copyright exists

Hyde Park Residence Ltd v Yelland and Others

Before Mr Justice Jacob

[Judgment March 16]

There existed, in principle, a public interest defence to a claim for breach of copyright.

The publication in *The Sun* on September 2, 1998 of copies of still pictures taken on August 30, 1997 by security video apparatus of the arrival at and departure from a villa of Princess Diana and Mr Dodi Al Fayed, constituted "fair dealing with a work ... for the purpose of reporting current events" within section 30(2) of the Copyright Designs and Patents Act 1988.

Mr Justice Jacob so held in the Chancery Division, in dismissing an application *by the plaintiff*, Hyde Park Residence Ltd, for summary judgment for (a) damages for breach of copyright and (b) additional damages under section 97(2) of the Act, against David Yelland, News Group Newspapers Ltd, News International Ltd, respectively the editor, publishers and printers of *The Sun*, and Reuben Murrell, a former employee of the plaintiff.

Section 97 of the 1988 Act provides: "(2) The court may in an action for infringement of copyright having regard to all the circumstances, and in particular to - (a) the flagrancy of the infringement, and (b) any benefit accruing to the defendant ... award such additional damages as the justice of the case may require."

Mr Michael Bloch, QC and Mr *Alistair Abbott for the plaintiff*; Mr Richard Spearman, QC, for the defendants.

MR JUSTICE JACOB said that on August 30, 1997 Mr Murrell, the chief security officer at the Villa *Windsor, set video security camer*as so that they recorded the arrival and departure of the Princess of Wales and Dodi Al Fayed.

It was common ground that shortly after the fatal accident next day, at the request of another employee of the latter's father, Mr Mohammed Al Fayed, he made two pairs of stills from the video system, showing the interval between that arrival and departure to be less then 28 minutes.

In their skeleton argument, the defendants summarised the gist of *falsehoods published by Mr Al* Fayed to the effect that on that day "in preparation for a new life together and consistent not only with their intention to get married and to live at the Villa Windsor ... but also with the existence of a conspiracy to kill them in order to prevent their marriage. Dodi and Diana had visited Villa Windsor for at least two hours ... had manifested great happiness and affection ... had examined every part of the house and had taken a detailed interest in every aspect of the house and garden."

The defendants said these were falsehoods, concocted so as to divorce Mr Al Fayed in the public eye from any responsibility for that fatal accident; also that he had arranged for employees at the Villa falsely to corroborate the story of *that visit, and an* alleged earlier one; that Mr Murrell was asked to lie, refused, and therefore resigned, claiming he was entitled to remove copies of the stills and take them to *The Sun*, which, two days after Mr Al Fayed had, in *The Mirror*, repeated that the visit had lasted two hours, published them on September 2, 1998.

On those facts, two issues arose:

1 Was a defence of fair dealing made out?

Mr Bloch had urged that this case was similar to *Associated Newspapers Group plc v News Group Newspapers Ltd* ([1986] RPC 515), where Mr Justice Walton had held that the publication of letters passing between the late Duke and Duchess of Windsor, the copyright in which had been acquired by the *Daily Mail*, was "*not the sort of current* event of which subsection (3) [of the Copyright Act 1956] is speaking".

But only two days before the publication of the stills Mr Al Fayed had again put into the public domain the proposition that there had been a two-hour visit to the Villa, so it would be pedantic to regard the relevant events as anything other than current.

Further, as Lord Justice Robert Walker had said in *Pro Sieben Media AG v Carlton UK Television Ltd* (unreported, December 17, 1998, CA (Civ Div) Transcript No 1988 of 1998): " 'reporting current events' [is an] expression of wide and indefinite scope ... Any attempt to plot [its] precise boundaries is doomed to failure ... [it] should be construed liberally".

Mr Bloch had objected that there was no need to publish the stills. *The Sun* could have said they had seen them and interviewed Mr Murrell, and/or challenged Mr Al Fayed to withdraw his statement.

But, his Lordship said, the former course would not have had the same impact and the latter would have invited pre-emptive legal action.

Indeed, it was close to necessary to publish the stills in order to refute what Mr Al Fayed had said, clearly putting into public debate the question of what the mother of a future sovereign had done at the Villa Windsor and making it fair dealing for *The Sun* to come back in that very forum.

2 Was there a defence of public interest?

Mr Bloch, citing The Modern Law of Copyright by Laddie, Prescott & Vitoria (2nd edition, 1995, paragraphs 2.150 to 2.153) denied that there was a defence of public interest to copyright infringement.

No court had, at final judgment, ever so held, and all the judicial dicta to the contrary were wrong, he submitted.

Many such dicta existed, starting with cases where copyright had been denied altogether, see *Glyn v Weston Feature Film Co* ([1916] 1 Ch 261), *Slingsby v Bradford Patent Truck and Trolley Co* ([1906] WN 51) and *Attorney-General v Guardian Newspapers Ltd (No 2)* ([1990] 1 AC 109), the *Spycatcher* case; and continuing with cases where the courts had recognised a defence of public interest in particular circumstances, such as *Beloff v Pressdram* ([1973] RPC 765, 783) and *Lion Laboratories Ltd v Evans* ([1985] QB 526).

The upshot of Mr Bloch's analysis of the latter two authorities, which his Lordship accepted as correct, was that in neither was there any substantial basis in precedent for concluding that the public interest defence defence existed.

But that was not the end of the matter: see dicta in *Spycatcher* by Lord Griffiths (at pp269 and 275), Lord Goff (at p268) and Lord Jauncey (at p294).

In addition to a series of exceptions to the infringement provisions, section 30(2) being an example, the 1988 Act provided by section 171(3) that nothing in Part I "affects any rule of law preventing or restricting the enforcement of copy*right, on grounds of public interest* or otherwise".

His Lordship examined the views taken of English law in Australia and Canada and in other textbooks and continued that a public interest defence, albeit not of wide scope and unlikely to succeed unless the court could be reasonably certain that no right-thinking member of society would quarrel with the result, was available in principle.

Accordingly, disclosure in *The Sun* had been justified: indeed, the case was so clear that not only were the defendants entitled to judgment, but even if his Lordship had been wholly wrong about both main issues he would, on the ground of public interest, have awarded no additional damages.

Solicitors: D. J. Freeman; Farrer & Co.

Delaying taking instructions

Regina v McFarlane

A solicitor could defer taking instructions until the detail of the prosecution case was known, but he should not encourage his client to procrastinate before saying what his defence was, especially if conflicting defences might arise.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Rose, Mr Justice Cresswell and Mr Justice Latham) so stated on February 23 when refusing a renewed application for leave to appeal by Sidney McFarlane against his conviction on November 24, 1995 at the Central Criminal Court (Judge Hawkins, QC and a jury) of *murder and affray*.

LORD JUSTICE ROSE said that at trial the defence had challenged the identification evidence. It was now contended that the conviction was unsafe because the applicant's solicitor was incompetent and ignored instructions to raise self-defence. The solicitor had concealed from counsel that the appli*cant had admitted the stabbing* to him.

That was more than an error of judgment. Both solicitor and client wanted to postpone as long as possible deciding which defence to run, and the solicitor deliberately delayed taking instructions.

Solicitors had a duty to do their best for clients but must not mislead the court by being party to putting forward a case which they knew or had reason to believe was false.

Solicitors could defer taking instructions until the prosecution case was known, but must not encourage their clients to procrastinate before saying what their defence was.

However, their Lordships did not accept that the applicant's true instructions were to run self-defence.

Reporter not responsible for publication

Gleaves and Others v Insall
Gleaves v Insall

Before Lord Justice Kennedy and Mr Justice Blofeld

[Judgment March 9]

A newspaper reporter was not a "person responsible for the publication of a newspaper" within the *meaning of section 8 of the Law of* Libel (Amendment) Act 1888.

Where, therefore, criminal libel proceedings were commenced against a reporter, it was unnecessary for an order to be obtained from a judge in chambers.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in (i) dismissing an appeal by way of case stated by Roger Charles Gleaves, Norman David Bolton, and Peter Lewis Dore of the decisions of Reading Justices that (a) a newspaper article published on February 2, 1997 did not constitute criminal libel, and (b) that the issuing of a summons by Mr Gleaves constituted an abuse of process; and (ii) allowing an appeal by way of case stated, by Mr Gleaves, against the decision of Mr Inigo Bing, stipendiary magistrate, at Ashford Magistrates Court, dismissing a sum*mons alleging criminal libel issued* by Mr Gleaves in respect of an article published on February 23, 1997, because on a true construction of section 8 of the 1888 Act Mr Gleaves was obliged prior to commencing prosecution to obtain leave of a judge in chambers.

Roger Insall was a journalist who wrote for the *News of the World*. On February 2, 1997 a report, written by Mr Insall, was published in which Mr Gleaves, Mr Bolton and Mr Dore were named.

On February 5, 1997, without seeking leave from a judge, an information was laid at Thames Magistrates Court that alleged that the report constituted criminal libel contrary to section 5 of the Libel Act 1843. On February 20, Mrs E. Rees, metropolitan stipendiary *magistrate*, exercising her discretion refused to issue the summons on the ground the application was vexatious.

On March 5, 1997, in response to a second article which appeared in the *News of the World* on February 23, 1997, Mr Gleaves laid an information against Mr Insall at Ashford Magistrates Court, alleging that in several respects he had *been defamed in the second article*, contrary to section 5 of the 1843 Act.

On April 14, informations were laid at Reading Magistrates Court by Mr Dore, Mr Bolton and Mr Gleaves that the first report constituted criminal libel. On June 2, 1997, Reading Justices dismissed *the allegations of criminal libel* and held that Mr Gleaves's failure to disclose the refusal to issue an identical summons by Mrs Rees at Thames Magistrates Court constituted an abuse of process.

On June 3, 1997, Mr Inigo Bing, at Ashford held that the body of persons who collectively composed and brought out an edition of a newspaper, included the author of a text which was published by the publication of words in a newspaper.

Further, that without the words or text written by the journalist *there could be no words to be made* public and, therefore, before commencing proceedings under section 8 of the 1888 Act leave of a High Court judge was required.

Section 8 of the 1888 Act provides: "No criminal prosecution shall be commenced against any *proprietor, publisher, editor, or* any person responsible for the publication of a newspaper for any libel contained therein, without the order of a judge at chambers being first had and obtained."

Mr Richard Parkes for Mr Insall; Mr Gleaves, Mr Bolton and *Mr Lewis in person.*

LORD JUSTICE KENNEDY said it was clear beyond argument that where one magistrate had considered and ruled on a question of whether to issue a summons, if the same application went to a different magistrates court that court had to be told what the first court had decided.

As to the allegations of criminal libel, that was a rare form of proceedings which required that the offence had to be so serious itself that the offender should be punished: see *Goldsmith v Sperring* ([1977] 1 WLR 478, 485); *R v Wells Street Stipendiary Magistrate, Ex parte Deakin and Others* ([1978] 1 WLR 1008, 1011); *Goldsmith v Pressdram* ([1977] QB 83) and *Gleaves v Deakin* ([1980] AC 477).

In the instant case, none of the matters complained of came near to constituting criminal libel.

There was clearly a different view being expressed by the two stipendiary magistrates as to whether or not leave should be required.

The question whether the requirement in section 8 should apply where action was taken against a *reporter had* been considered on limited occasions and had not seriously formed the subject matter for judicial consideration.

The point had been considered in the Queen's Bench Division in Northern Ireland in *Monteith v Clarke and Others* ([1993] NILR 576) where Mr Justice Carswell stated:

"An application for leave is not necessary where the intended prosecution was against the author of a *newspaper article* ... the words 'person responsible for the publication of a newspaper' in section 8 of the *Law of Libel (Amendment) Act 1888* are to be construed ejusdem generis with the preceding words 'any proprietor, publisher or editor'.

"In my view they were intended to cover persons who bring the newspaper out, not the contributors whose material is contained in the issues published. I do not think that the argument is correct that a journalist employed by a newspaper to write material for the publication is a person responsible for its publication merely because his contribution forms part of the substance of the issue when published."

His Lordship agreed with that opinion. The contributor merely provided the material. It remained with the editor the choice of what was published.

Article 10 of the European Convention of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (1953, Cmd 8969) had no bearing on the matter that the court was concerned with.

Mr Justice Blofeld agreed.

Solicitors: Farrer & Co.

Common law right to remedy defects

Pearce and High Ltd v *Baxter and Another*

The defects liability clause in the JCT Agreement for Minor Building Works, 1980 edition, did not deprive the employer of his common law right to recover damages for the contractor's breach of contract, when the employer had failed to comply with the clause's provisions whether by refusing to allow the contractor to carry out repairs or by failing to give notice of the defects.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Evans, Lord Justice Tuckey and Mr Justice Hidden) so held on February 15 allowing the appeal of Mr and Mrs J. P. Baxter against Mr Recorder Hall in Swindon County Court who on June 26, 1998, held, inter alia, that the contractors, Pearce and High Ltd, could *not be sued in respect of* defects in the contract works for alterations and extensions to the employers' home because of their failure to notify the contractors of defects within the six-month liability period stipulated.

LORD JUSTICE EVANS said that the clause gave the employer the express right to require the contractor to return, and the contractor himself the right to return and repair the defect if he was willing. Both rights were likely to be of great practical value to the party concerned.

If the contractor were denied his right and another was employed to remedy defects, the contractor was not liable for the full cost of repairs.

The employer could not recover more than the amount which it would have cost the contractor himself to remedy the defects.

TENNIS

Graf steps up a gear to dismiss Zvereva

FROM ALIX RAMSAY IN KEY BISCAYNE, FLORIDA

WHILE the men's draw at the Lipton championships here is looking distinctly thin — after Greg Rusedski's defeat on Monday night there are only three men from the top 20 left and two of them play each other — the women's event is warming up nicely. The leading players are all making their presence felt, even if it is not quite as easy for some as it used to be.

Steffi Graf is still some months away from her 30th birthday but she seems to have been around since tennis began. Certainly Natasha Zvereva has been around since Graf began and over the years they have met 20 times. Only once has Zvereva got the better of Graf and that was at Wimbledon last year. It was, she said at the time, the only time she had managed to concentrate from the first ball to the last and, as tactics go, it was remarkably successful.

Results.........44

Yesterday, aiming for a place in the quarter-finals, such powers of concentration were beyond her as Graf beat her yet again, 6-2, 6-4. Not that Graf was best pleased with her efforts. Both of them, she thought, could have played much better and she was not impressed to be one point away from a 3-0 deficit in the first set. Rattling off the next six games, she seemed to be making her point quite forcefully until Zvereva started arguing back in the second set.

Still, at her age, Graf has heard it all before, and the result was never really in doubt. The only difference these days is that Graf has to work a little harder than she used to.

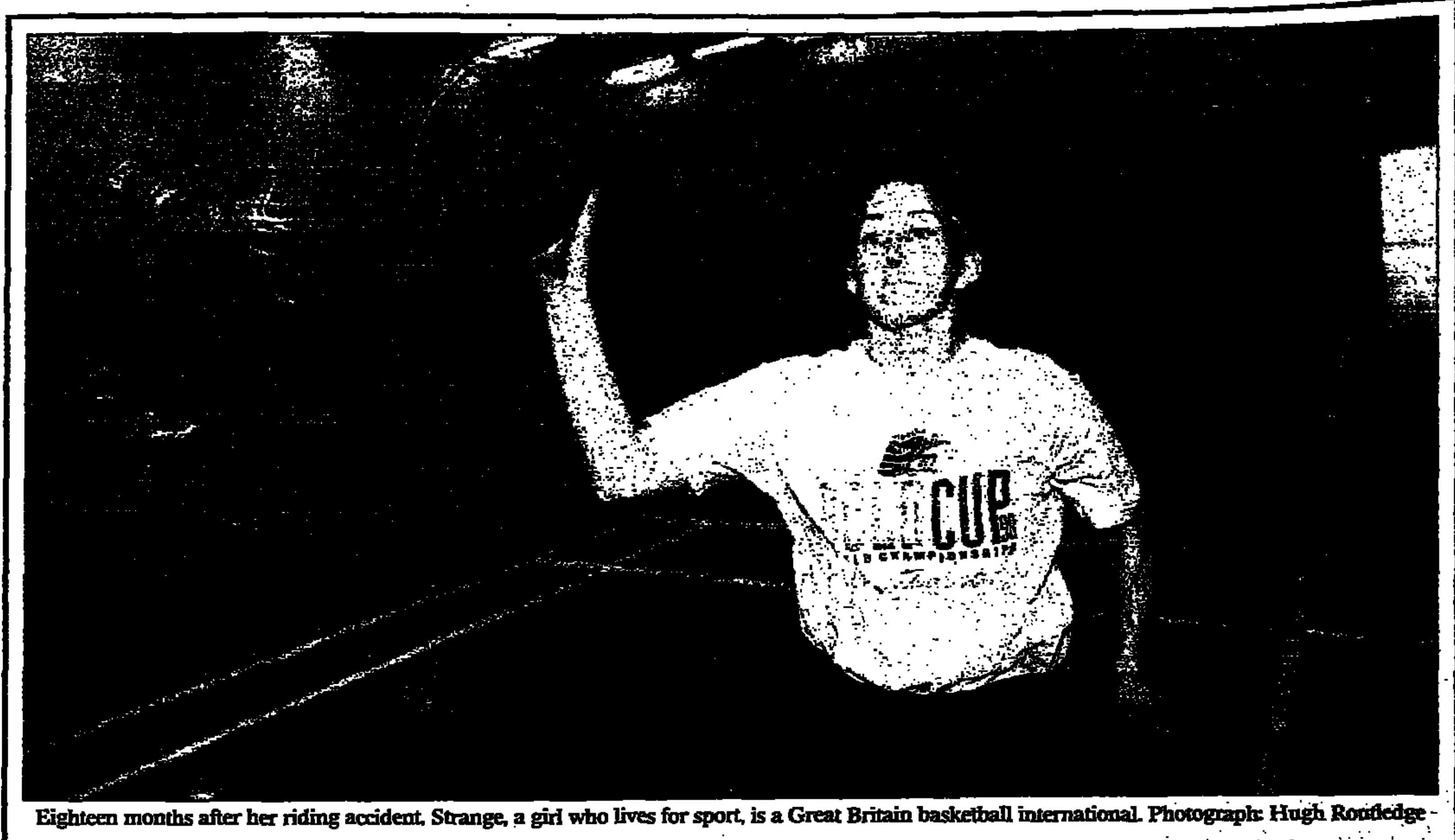
For Martina Hingis life is still so simple. For all her titles and all her money, she is still a teenager and given half a chance to show off, she jumps at it. It would have taken Hingis longer to spell Marlene Weingartner than it took to beat her 6-0, 6-2, and that put a smile on her face. "I didn't let her into the game, that was probably the secret," she confessed. It was hardly the most profound of revelations, but it said it all.

Venus Williams discovered that there were rather more people involved in her game than she had bargained for late on Monday night. With Marcelo Rios playing later on, the South American supporters had moved in and were delighted to see that Fabiola Zuluaga, from Colombia, was doing battle with the taller of the Williams sisters. They were the only ones, mind you. When Zuluaga first arrived in Miami, no one, not even the Women's Tennis Association, knew who she was. Only by asking around in the locker-room did it dawn on tournament officials that they had a champion on their hands. Zuluaga is the toast of Bogota, having won the title there last month.

Williams had not seen the like. Playing in her own back yard, she expected at least someone to be on her side, but no. The crowd cheered Zuluaga's every move and, realising she had been completely upstaged, Williams got the match over and done with as quickly as possible, winning 6-3, 6-4, and then stepped aside to let her 20-year-old opponent lap up the applause. Williams is maturing almost as fast as her tennis.

LINKS

WEBSITE:
www.atptour.com — live updates on official site
TELEVISION:
Eurosport, 3.30, 9.30pm



Eighteen months after her riding accident, Strange, a girl who lives for sport, is a Great Britain basketball international. Photograph: Hugh Routledge

Disabled athletes fight for fair deal

Rob Hughes reports on efforts to modernise the run-down sports facilities at Stoke Mandeville

The Prince of Wales was there. Lennox Lewis, the almost undisputed heavyweight champion of the world, was there. Lawrence Dallaglio, captain of the England rugby team, was there. And the reception hall at Lancaster House, the Government's grand place to entertain visitors, was graced by as many Olympians as you can count.

With respect, none of them impressed me more than Clare Strange, 19, an athlete whose name and personality may not have come to your attention. Strange competed for Great Britain as an under-21 hockey international until, eighteen months ago, while horse-riding through a forest, she crashed into a tree, her spinal cord severed.

Strange, and many of the athletes of disabled sport, are confined to the wheelchair, but their spirit is not. And, because Prince Charles has been patron for 21 years of the British Wheelchair Sports Foundation, he was leading them yesterday on the launch of an appeal to give wheelchair athletes "a sporting chance".

The Guttmann Sports Centre, at Stoke Mandeville in Buckinghamshire, adjoining the most progressive spinal unit in Europe, is run down, lacking the basic facilities, and in need either of a £5 million injection of capital, or of some philanthropic renovation if competitors such as Strange are to build on the 122 medals that our disabled men and women brought back from the Paraplegic Olympics in Atlanta in 1996.

Two things were incongruous yesterday. One is that a nation that has an unspent surplus approaching £2 billion needs to launch an appeal for the basic requirements to assist wheelchair people to help themselves. The other was that Lewis, who is expecting to meet Evander Holyfield later this year in a second attempt to unify the world heavyweight titles, will share a purse, over the two contests, grossing each boxer £20 million apiece ... for trying to disable the other man.

However, Lewis carried himself with a remarkable dignity, kneeling on the ground beside each wheelchair, sharing with the occupants, sportsmen to sportsman or woman, the normal discussions of athletes in training. Dallaglio, and indeed the administrators of rugby, football and other sports, equally joined in.

And come October 30 they, all the sports of this country, will have their chance to give something — perhaps a donation from their wealthy gains — or simply an endorsement towards the Prince's Appeal. That day alone should raise the £10 million that is the Wheelchair Foundation's first target in order to meet the proportion of grant they seek from the lottery fund. The Sports Council of England, allegedly sitting on £205 million of unallocated National Lottery Fund, could, if the will and the lottery rules allowed, simply make the donation tomorrow.

'Lewis carried himself with remarkable dignity, sharing the normal discussions of athletes in training'

The priority at Stoke Mandeville would be to renovate a six-line track that is unsuitable for wheelchair competition. Dawn John, the director of the sports centre, plans an eight-lane track, if possible in different coloured lanes to assist the partially sighted. Next, in the sleeping dormitories that resemble the days of Dad's Army, there are plans to build 100 new sleeping quarters, to provide some privacy and dignity. Then there is the plan for a new, international-standard sports hall, and down the road, efforts to take the rifle range and other facilities out of their Nissen-hut post-war decrepitude.

There are, in a given year, a million people using Stoke Mandeville for sport, half of them physically disabled. While the Prince could oil the wheels of their appeal, it is, and will always be, the competitors themselves who perpetuate what began in 1948 by Sir Ludwig Guttmann, an eminent neurologist who was determined to show that sport, as recreation or as competition, could inspire spinal injury victims to live full lives.

Before her accident, Strange was an international hockey player; after it, she is making remarkable progress in another team game.

"People ask me, if I could have my time over again, if I regret losing my mobility," Strange said. "Of course I do, but now, having found within a year of taking up basketball that I can begin to compete on an international level, having learnt the skills and the friendships that have come through competition, I would not want to give up those experiences either.

"Sport is my life," she said, and somehow it seems far less trite than from many an able-bodied champion.

CRICKET

Australia issue late invitation to Moody

BY JOHN STERN

TOM MOODY, the Worcestershire captain, has been called up to the Australia World Cup squad. Moody, 33, who has just captained Western Australia to the Sheffield Shield, was not selected in the provisional 19-man squad because of concerns about his fitness.

However, Trevor Hohns, the chairman of selectors, said that Moody's vast experience of English conditions was an important factor in the decision to add him to the party. He and Steve Waugh, the captain, are the only survivors from the Australia squad that won the 1987 World Cup in India and Pakistan.

Worcestershire have decided not to seek a replacement for Moody as their overseas player. The county has asked Steve Rhodes, the wicketkeeper, to captain the side until Moody returns after the World Cup. Worcestershire's nominated vice-captain is Graeme Hick, but he will be playing for England.

"I wasn't considering it at all," Moody said. "I thought my chances were very slim, but I was hopeful that my form and fitness over the last few weeks would have helped." Paul Reiffel, the seam bowler, is also included despite his injury problems and the fact that he last played for his country a year ago.

Andrew Symonds, the former Gloucestershire player who opted to pursue a place in the Australia team and gave up his English qualification, was yesterday named as Kent's overseas player for the coming season.

John Wright, the Kent coach, said: "He is an outstanding young player who has performed well in England before at county level. We were looking for a player with a competitive attitude, season-long availability and all-round ability."

Adam Dale, a member of the World Cup party, took six for 67 to bowl the Australians to a 154-run victory over West Indies A in Antigua yesterday.

AUSTRALIA SQUAD: S R Waugh (captain), S K Warne, M G Bevan, A C Dale, D W Fleming, A C Gilchrist, B P Julian, S Lee, D S Lehmann, G D McGrath, D R Martyn, T M Moody, R T Ponting, P R Reiffel, M E Waugh



SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Bryan Maksymetz, a Canada international, demonstrated that sometimes all you you need to do is count to thirteen. Maksymetz was sitting South on the deal below. First he found a way to play in his right-hand-opponent's first-bid suit, and then he took full advantage of his opponents' signalling.

Dealer West **N-S game** **Pairs**

North: ♠ 93 ♡ 98743 ◇ A10 ♣ J642

West: ♠ Q7 ♡ QJ102 ◇ QJ954 ♣ KQ

East: ♠ 10642 ♡ K5 ◇ K732 ♣ 985

South: ♠ AKJ85 ♡ A6 ◇ 86 ♣ A1073

S	W	N	E
–	1 D	Pass	1 S
Pass	1 NT	Pass	Pass
2 S	All Pass		

Contract: Two Spades by South. Lead: queen of hearts.

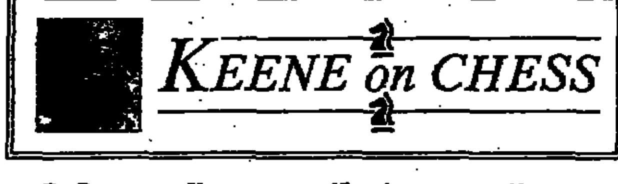
Maksymetz might have doubled 1NT for penalties, but on the actual hand East-West have a cheap resting place in diamonds. He decided that it was simpler to bid Two Spades, hoping that the suit would not break too badly.

West led the queen of hearts to declarer's ace, and Maksymetz made his first good move when he laid down the ace of clubs. The fall of the queen persuaded him that West had four hearts and five diamonds along with two cards in each black suit. So Maksymetz next cashed the ace of spades before exiting with a second club to West's king.

When West played the queen of diamonds, and East encouraged that suit, Maksymetz assumed that East had the king of diamonds. This left the West hand with 6 high-card points in the red suits along with the king and queen of clubs: a total of 11. To make up an opening bid, West needed the queen of spades. (Some 11-counts may be worth opening but not the aceless, shapeless variety West would have had.) So Maksymetz laid down the king of spades and dropped the queen offside.

The extra trick was only an overtrick, but at match-pointed pairs every little helps.

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.



KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Parliamentary moves

Good news for chess organisations. To coincide with a visit by Garry Kasparov to this country, Tony Banks, the Sports Minister, has announced the Government's support for chess and other mind games to gain recognition as sports. In a debate in Parliament, Banks said: "I can confirm to the House that the Secretary of State has proposed to broaden the scope of the 1937 Act to enable chess and other mind games to be funded by the UK Sports Council.

"We will do that as part of the new Cultural Framework Bill for which we are seeking legislative time. Once that is achieved, the Sports Council, in turn, will need to promulgate the appropriate amendments to its royal charters, which I feel certain it will want to do following our amendments to the 1937 Act."

Here is a classic game by Kasparov, one he picked for his own choice of the ten best ever played.

White: Garry Kasparov
Black: Lajos Portisch
Niksic 1983

Queen's Indian Defence

1	d4	Nf6
2	c4	e6
3	Nf3	b6
4	Nc3	Bb7
5	a3	d5
6	cxd5	Nxd5
7	e3	Nxc3
8	bxc3	Be7
9	Bb5+	c6
10	Bd3	c5
11	0-0	Nc6
12	Bb2	Rc8
13	Qe2	0-0
14	Rad1	Qc7
15	c4	cxd4
16	exd4	Na5
17	d5	exd5
18	cxd5	Bxd5
19	Bxh7+	Kxh7
20	Rxd5	Kg8
21	Bxg7	Kxg7
22	Ne5	Rfd8
23	Qg4+	Kf8
24	Qf5	f6
25	Nd7+	Rxd7
26	Rxd7	Qc5
27	Qh7	Rc7
28	Qh8+	Kf7
29	Rd3	Nc4
30	Rfd1	Ne5
31	Qh7+	Ke6
32	Qg8+	Kf5
33	g4+	Kf4
34	Rd4+	Kf3
35	Qb3+	Black resigns

Diagram of final position

Keene online

You can send me your queries, puzzles, problems and games direct by e-mail. The address is keenechess@aol.com. The best contributions from *Times* readers will be published either here or in the Saturday *Times* Weekend column.

Times book

The Times Winning Moves 2 contains 240 chess puzzles from international grandmaster Raymond Keene's daily column in *The Times*, and is available now from bookshops or from B. T. Batsford Ltd (tel: 01797 369966 at £6.99 plus postage and packing).

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

HAGGADAY
a. A type of hawk
b. Male chauvinism
c. A latch

JESSE
a. A strap for a hawk
b. A tree
c. A bonnet

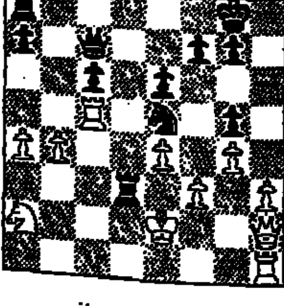
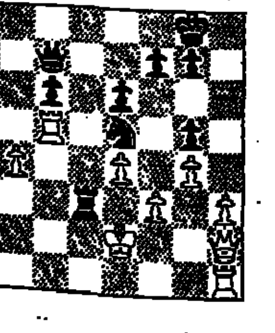
HARATCH
a. A tax
b. Ship's ballast
c. A diacritic

HARFANG
a. An Innuit trident
b. An owl
c. A Hungarian diphthong

Answers on page 45

WINNING MOVE

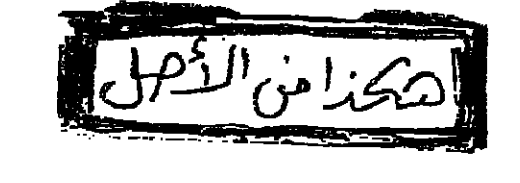
By Raymond Keene

Black to play. This position is from the game Ward — Hillarp Persson, Jersey 1998.

White's pieces have been flung to the far corners of the board and his king is very open. It is not surprising that Black found a quick win. What did he play?

Solution on page 45



RACING: CHELTENHAM GOLD CUP RUNNER-UP TO CONTEST MARTELL CUP AT AINTREE

Go Ballistic to miss National

BY ALAN LEE
RACING CORRESPONDENT

GO BALLISTIC, second favourite for the Martell Grand National at Aintree next month, was yesterday ruled out of the race. David Nicholson, his trainer, revealed that last week's Cheltenham Gold Cup runner-up will instead, by the preference of his owner, contest the Martell Cup two days before the National.

This news will inevitably cause a shake-up in the ante-post betting and the growing support for another Nicholson entry, Call It A Day, is sure to continue after the booking of Richard Dunwoody to ride him. Baronet, who is to be the only other runner from the Nicholson stable, will be ridden by the stable jockey, Richard Johnson, leaving Adrian Maguire free to partner Addington Boy for Ferdy Murphy.

Nicholson had given warning last week that Go Ballistic, who belied odds of 66-1 when finishing a length second to See More Business in the Gold Cup at Cheltenham, was not certain to run in the National. Bookmakers nevertheless quoted him at 10-1, with only Double Thriller — trained by Paul Nicholls — shorter.

It had been thought that Nicholson would make his decision based on video evidence of Go Ballistic's previous attempt over the National fences but he explained yesterday that he was acceding to the wishes of the horse's owner, Sheila Lockhart. "The owner wasn't keen and I am not in the business of persuading owners to run at Aintree," he said.

Go Ballistic will instead line up with his stable companion, Escartefigue, in the Martell Cup over the Mildmay course.

Nicholson, rallying strongly after a turbulent season in which the split with Maguire, his former stable jockey, has been followed by endless unsubstantiated rumours regarding his own retirement and potential successors at his Jackdaws Castle yard, said of his two intended National runners: "Baronet wants the ground fast, but I am not worried about the going for Call It A Day."

Dunwoody finished second on Call It A Day in the Midlands Grand National last Saturday, the first time he had ridden him since the horse was a novice chaser. "He stayed the trip really well and I'm looking forward to riding him round Aintree," Dunwoody said.

The right arm that has given Dunwoody such an uncomfortable few months was still troubling him at Exeter yesterday but he insisted that it will not require surgery. "I have been assured that an operation is not the answer," he said. "I am having physio almost every day and I had some acupuncture treatment yesterday. It still isn't good but it's not stopping me."

By way of proof, Dunwoody rode a strong finish on Village King in the Buzzard Handicap Chase, completing a double for the trainer, Philip Hobbs, and inching ever closer to Peter Scudamore's record number of career winners — Dunwoody now trails by just six. Another consequence of this result, though, was to prolong the gathering misery of Tony McCoy's day, his last in the saddle before starting six days of suspension for whip offences.

McCoy looked likely to start his ban on a rare losing run of 19 rides until winning the final race for Martin Pipe on Laffah. Pipe is away on holiday and evidently unconcerned about the danger of losing his champion trainer title to Nicholls. "It's happened before," David, his son, said. "But there is plenty of racing still to come and we'll have a lot of runners at Aintree."

McCoy and Pipe probably deserved a double as Country Store was beaten by 1¼ lengths in the Heavitree Brewery Challenge Cup, by a horse carrying 15lb less than it should have done. Hobbs's Norlandic profited from a programming fault at Weatherbys. McCoy, visibly, was not pleased.

HUGH ROUTLEDGE



Go Ballistic, as low as 10-1 for the Grand National next month, will not run in the race

LUDLOW

ROB WRIGHT
2.00 Dubai Falcon. 2.30 Iranos. 3.00 Saddlers' Roe. 3.30 Coble. 4.00 Influence Pedler. 4.30 Grimley Gale. 5.00 Derrintogher Yank.

Carl Evans: 4.30 Grimley Gale.

GOING: GOOD SIS

2.00 P.J. JOINTING CLAIMING HURDLE (£2,339: 2m) (13 runners)

1 321- ERLKING 334 (D,G,S) R Cason 9-11-8 J Power (7)
2 6945 FASTINI GOLD 14 (B,CD,F) R J Price 7-11-8 J Mogford (7)
3 3502 MISS ONDEE 5 (BF,CD,F,G,S) M Pipe 5-11-7 R Greene
4 1451 BRAMBLES WAY 36 (D,F,G,S) F Jordan 10-11-6 A Maguire
5 -14P INFAMOUS 32F (D,F,G) S Llewellyn 6-11-6 R Johnson
6 0P01 ROLFE 19 (B,D,F,G,S) S Brookshaw 9-11-6 A Dobbin
7 2F00 ALBEMINE 8F (B,D,F,G) A Juckes 10-11-4 D McPhail (5)
8 5F0- MERCURY 30F B Baugh 6-11-4 Gary Lyons
9 U/20 DUBAI FALCON 104 (D,F) R Dickin 8-11-2 X Aizpuru (3)
10 6525 GALLOPING GUNS 20 (CD,G) B Llewellyn 7-11-2 J Goldstein (3)
11 060 TALKING IN RIDDLES 40 W Jenks 6-11-1 T Jenks
12 P604 BON LUCK 5 (B) B Preece 7-11-0 Mr H Ephgrave (7)
13 6200 SHARP MOVE 36F Miss H Knight 7-10-13 R Farrant

11-4 Brambles Way, 7-2 Infamous, 4-1 Miss Ondee, 5-1 Rolfe, 10-1 others.

2.30 RICHARD STRACHAN PENSION NOVICES CHASE (£3,501: 2m 4f) (9)

3.00 BUNDY (EUROPE) JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE (4-Y-O: £2,698: 2m) (12)

3.30 RACING CHANNEL HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,866: 2m) (14)

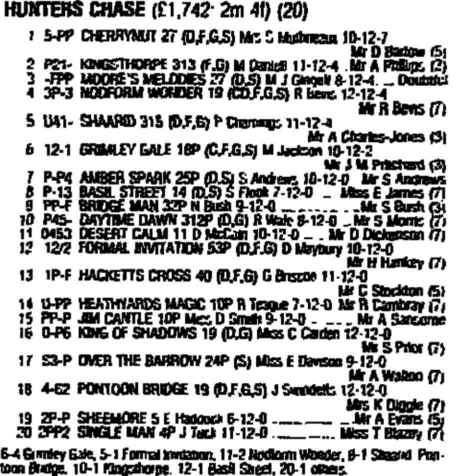
1 2300 KINGDOM EMPEROR 40 (CD,F,S) W Clay 5-12-0 G Tormey
2 FF13 THUNDERPOINT 205 (BF,D,F,G) Miss K George 7-11-10 R Massey
3 -P41 BABA AU RHUM 167 (CD,F,G) I Williams 7-11-5 R Johnson
4 0P1F WHAT A FUSS 28 (S) Miss H Knight 6-11-3 M Batchelor (5)
5 42P2 BUNGEE JUMPER 153 (B,CD,F) P Bradley 9-11-2 A Maguire
6 R412 TREMENDISTO 12 (D,G,S) T Wall 9-11-0 X Aizpuru (3)
7 -410 DUELLO 27 (CD,G) M Blanshard 8-10-12 D Gallagher
8 -1P4 SYLVESTER 13 (F,G) Miss A Broyd 9-10-8 R Farrant
9 1263 SAHHAR 104 (D,F) B Leavy 6-10-7 W Worthington
10 0P35 WALK ON BY 77 J King 5-10-6 A Dobbin
11 4P03 SUPREME MASTER 37 (D,G,S) Miss C Johnsey 9-10-4 C Llewellyn
12 6146 COBLE 18 (CD,S) D McCain 5-10-3 A C Coyle (5)
13 F44U FLAHIVE'S FIRST 9 (D,G) R J Price 5-10-2 L Wyer
14 5105 FENCER'S QUEST 20 (CD,S) J Tuck 6-10-0 R Bellamy

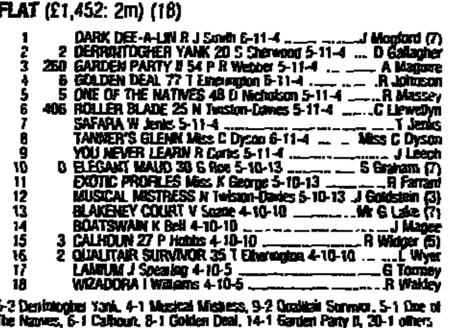
7-2 Tremendisto, 7-1 Kingdom Emperor, What A Fuss, 8-1 Baba Au Rhum, Duello, 10-1 Walk On By, 12-1 Thunderpoint, Bungee Jumper, Sahhar, 14-1 others.

4.00 BUNDY (UK) HANDICAP CHASE (£4,759: 3m) (13)

4.30 MAGNUS-ALLCROFT MEMORIAL TROPHY HUNTERS CHASE (£1,742: 2m 4f) (20)

5.00 LUDLOW STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT (£1,452: 2m) (18)





COURSE SPECIALISTS

CHEPSTOW

ROB WRIGHT
1.50 JACDOR (nap)
2.20 Dovetto
2.50 Handy Lass
3.20 Grizzly Bear
3.50 Win The Toss
4.20 Saffron Moss
4.50 Brave Dream

Timekeeper's top rating: 2.20 THE HATCHER

Carl Evans: 4.20 Still In Business.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (SOFT IN PLACES) TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS

1.50 BEAGLES NOVICES HURDLE (£2,931: 2m 110yd) (15 runners)

101 1F1F4F AKINA 12 (G) (Kiwi Partnership) J Tuck 8-12-0 H Oliver (5) –
102 06F451 WESTCOAST 20 (B,S) (M Tate) M Tate 8-11-8 Mr J D Moore (7) 83
103 430-P BALLET HIGH 102 (Whitehouse Ltd) R Dickin 6-11-2 R Thornton –
104 20-3P DUNBURY FLYER 111 (G Dalziel) J Old 7-11-2 T J Murphy 35
105 0 FINNIGAN'S LOT 116 (P Brazier) E L James 5-11-2 M Griffiths (5) –
106 5 GARE HILL 26 (M Wilson) J Gifford 5-11-2 O Burrows (5) 38
107 4522 JACDOR 34 (J Mathews & D Evans) R Dickin 5-11-2 A Thornton 97

2.20 CAFFREYS IRISH ALE NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (£3,773: 2m 3f 110yd) (10 runners)

2.50 FARRIER HANDICAP HURDLE (£4,645: 2m 4f 110yd) (9 runners)



COURSE SPECIALISTS

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

101 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 12-0 B West (7) 88

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F—fell. P—pulled up. U—unseated rider. B—brought down. S—slipped up. R—refused. D—disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing; F if flat. (B—blinkers. V—visor. H—hood. E—Eyeshield. C—course winner. D—distance winner. CD—course and distance winner. BF—beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F—firm, good to firm, hard. G—good. S—soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. Timekeeper's speed rating.

3.20 WILLIAM HILL CHASE (SHOWCASE HANDICAP) (£7,003: 3m) (8 runners)

3.50 COURT SELLING HURDLE (£1,604: 2m 110yd) (11 runners)

4.20 JOHN EXELL MEMORIAL HUNTERS CHASE (£1,919: 3m) (13 runners)

4.50 WHIPPERS IN STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT (£1,856: 2m 110yd) (16 runners)

Windsor lost to weather

THE meeting scheduled for Windsor tomorrow has become the first casualty of the turf Flat season. After an inspection yesterday afternoon, course officials were forced to abandon because of waterlogging.

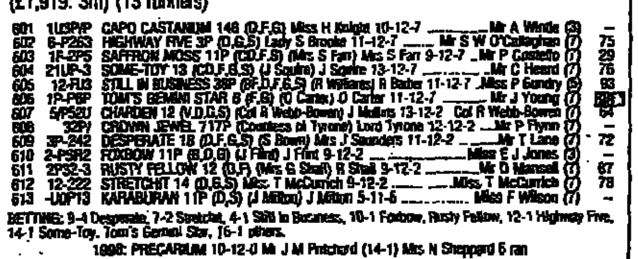
Hugo Bevan, the clerk of the course, said: "The meeting has been abandoned because of a number of heavy patches which are still very wet and will not dry out between now and Thursday even if it did not rain — and more rain is forecast. The area that gave us most concern is just past the winning post and is one that cannot be dolled off."

Doncaster, which traditionally holds the first meeting of the Flat season, will now have the stage to itself.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

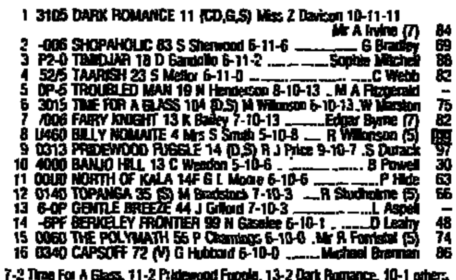
TOWCESTER: TRAINERS: Mrs C Bailey, 10 winners from 15 runners, 66.7%; Miss V Williams, 10 from 34, 29.4%; K Bailey, 13 from 48, 27.1%; Mrs P Sly, 5 from 20, 25.0%; Miss Z Davison, 3 from 14, 21.4%; N Henderson, 7 from 34, 20.6%; J Old, 8 from 40, 20.0%.

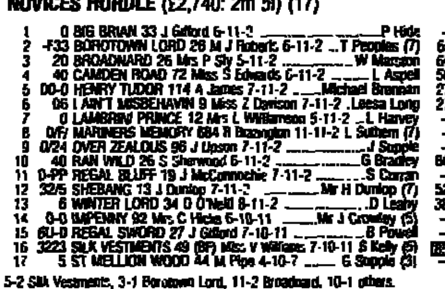
JOCKEYS: B Pollock, 7 winners from 13 rides, 53.8%; M Fitzgerald, 13 from 61, 21.3%; D Leahy, 6 from 32, 18.8%; G Bradley, 6 from 37, 16.2%; R Guest, 5 from 33, 15.2%; P Hide, 5 from 39, 12.8%; W Marston, 11 from 88, 12.5%. Only qualifiers.



RICHARD EVANS

Nap: KNIGHT'S CREST (3.20 Chepstow)





TOWCESTER

ROB WRIGHT
2.10 Goldengirlmichelle. 2.40 Soloman. 3.10 Wontcostalotbut. 3.40 Scotby. 4.10 Billy Nomaite. 4.40 Broad Steane. 5.10 Borotown Lord.

Carl Evans: 4.40 Broad Steane.

GOING: CHASES: GOOD; HURDLES: GOOD TO SOFT SIS

2.10 ROSEMARY BOARDMAN AMATEUR RIDERS SELLING HURDLE (£1,674: 2m) (12 runners)

1 0F40 ROUND ROBIN 11 (B,D,S) Mrs A E Johnson 5-12-3 D Cook (7) 71
2 32F2 RUSK 9 (BF,D,S) J Allen 6-12-3 F Hutsby (5)
3 F00 DASHING INVADER 22F (B) D Williams 6-11-11 Miss V Roberts (5) –
4 FU00 LIGHTNING REBEL 36F P Hiatt 5-11-11 J Trice-Rolph (3) 15
5 MASTER DODGER C Dwyer 7-11-11 V Coogan (7) –
6 265P FLORA DREAMBIRD 13 P Hiatt 5-11-6 C R Weaver (7) 42
7 0361 GOLDENGIRLMICHELLE 16 (D,G) F Murphy 4-11-4 J P McNamara 53
8 0 DARING NEWS 32F O O'Neill 4-11-3 Miss Z Owen (7) –

2.40 TUSCARORA NOVICES CHASE (£3,581: 2m 110yd) (6)

3.10 TOWCESTER FOR CONFERENCES HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,960: 2m 5f) (10)

3.40 TOTE HANDICAP CHASE (£6,905: 3m 1f) (8)

4.10 HORSERACE BETTING LEVY BOARD NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,618: 2m) (16)

4.40 LARRY CONNELL MEMORIAL HUNTERS CHASE (£1,277: 3m 1f) (13)

5.10 BBC MATCH OF THE DAY LIVE EVENT NH NOVICES HURDLE (£2,740: 2m 5f) (17)

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Uttoxeter

Fontwell Park

Exeter

WEIGHTLIFTING

Supple's name cleared in drugs appeal

By John Goodbody

A BRITISH weightlifting champion is considering legal action for financial compensation after being cleared of an alleged drugs offence that caused him to be suspended from sport for seven months and thereby miss the 1998 Commonwealth Games.

Paul Supple, from Manchester, who would have been among the favourites for the under-94kg gold medal in Kuala Lumpur, has struggled to clear his name with money raised by his Wythenshawe club-mates.

Supple recorded a testosterone/epitestosterone (T/E) ratio above 6-1 in an out-of-competition test last August and was then left out of the England team for the Games. This adverse finding indicated that a doping offence may have been committed, but Supple's solicitors said further investigations would have to take place before a positive result could be declared. An appeals panel of the British Amateur Weightlifters Association (BAWLA) has now ruled that it could not be satisfied that an offence had been committed since there was no evidence that these investigations and/or an examination had been carried out.

Supple had always said that he had never taken drugs. His solicitor, Fraser Reid, of Russell Jones Walker, said yesterday: "There were several plausible reasons which we would have put forward to explain the T/E ratio. Paul has a naturally low epitestosterone level. He had also drunk two pints of beer to give the urine sample and this may well have increased his testosterone level."

The taking of testosterone, the male hormone, which helps to build muscle weight and aids recovery, is outlawed under guidelines of the medical committee of the International Olympic Committee.

However, there is controversy over the ratio. In 1995, Diane Modahl, the former Commonwealth 800 metres champion, successfuly argued that degradation of her sample had increased the amount of testosterone, while Mary Slaney, the American runner, is in the middle of a dispute with the athletics authorities over her high T/E reading.

The United Kingdom Sports Council, which oversaw the collection of samples, yesterday declined to comment until it had received official confirmation from BAWLA.

□ Two months after Dougie Walker, the European 200 metres champion, was revealed to have failed a drugs test, a panel sat yesterday to determine whether he has a case to answer. A spokesperson for UK Athletics, the governing body of the sport in Britain, said it would announce the decision as soon it had been communicated to Walker, who denies taking a banned drug.

Matt Dickinson finds the Tottenham midfield player in combative mood

Sherwood takes to national stage

Tim Sherwood declined to criticise Glenn Hoddle yesterday, perhaps aware that he had already used his best line. "The only way I'll ever get noticed," Sherwood once said, "is if I turn up and juggle the ball in his back garden."

Kevin Keegan needed no back-yard auditions to select the 30-year-old and now, rather unexpectedly, the Tottenham Hotspur player is contemplating the increasing likelihood of a first cap. With Batty and Ince unavailable through illness and suspension, the England coach is in need of a robust midfield player and Sherwood has never required a call to arms from his country to put his boot in where it hurts.

For such an important match, it would be a daunting elevation for one of only two uncapped players in the squad, Ray Parlour being the other. Sherwood has been called up only once before, by Terry Venables in February 1995 against Ireland in Dublin, but any hopes of coming off the bench disappeared amid a hail of missiles. The match was abandoned and so, in Sherwood's mind, was any hope of an international career.

"I've not looked at any of the squads for ages and I didn't look this time," he said. "I built myself up so many times before and it never happened so it got to the stage where I didn't want to get upset about it. I am in the squad now but I honestly have not thought about playing yet."

Sherwood's case may be helped by Keegan's equivocal comments yesterday on David Beckham's best position. Like most observers, the England coach believes that the Manchester United player will eventually hold centre stage, but he hinted that Europe's best crosser, as Alex Ferguson described Beckham recently, may be asked to slice apart Poland from wide right.

"I think at some point in the future he should be more involved [in the middle of midfield]," Keegan said. "Maybe in the future he should be more central, but he is in such good form wide for United that he could play anywhere."

Either way, Sherwood has an above-evens chance of starting because none of his rivals — Paul Scholes, Jamie Redknapp, Parlour or Darren Anderton, who has yet to train this week because of a groin injury — are natural holding midfield players. And surely not even the famously cavalier Keegan will start the match without one of those.

In the case of Parlour and Sherwood, Keegan must decide whether to risk one, or even two, non-capped players in a European championship qualifier of such huge import, but he made positive noises about the pair yesterday, as he did about everyone, even the press.

"It would be nice for someone playing their first game in midfield to look alongside them and see somebody with 30 or 40 caps," Keegan said. "That is what I would have wanted when I was winning my first cap. But with the two players you have mentioned — Sherwood and Parlour — they are both in great form and no one is playing better in their positions."

Keegan will have few concerns about Sherwood's temperament. He is not the shy type, as was shown by his response to the question yesterday about whether, since moving from Blackburn Rovers to Tottenham Hotspur, he was missing captaincy. "I think it is a bit early for me to captain England," he said with a mischievous grin, "but maybe in the future."

HUGH ROUTLEDGE



Sherwood is looking forward to making up for lost time should Keegan select him against Poland on Saturday

'I think it is a bit early to lead England, but maybe in the future'

The £4 million move to White Hart Lane, and the management of the "frightening" George Graham, has seen Sherwood back to his best form since the season he captained Blackburn to the FA Carling Premiership title in 1995. The team disintegrated, managers came and were sacked, and Sherwood had a serious contretemps with Roy Hodgson.

Now, after missing the Worthington Cup final on Sunday because he was cup-tied, he can look forward to an FA Cup semi-final for Spurs against Newcastle United and the chance to get to Wembley. It is not improbable that he will have already appeared under the Twin Towers by then.

GOLF

Ballesteros feels the heat in the Hall of Fame

From John Hopkins
Golf Correspondent
in Jacksonville

IN THE heat of a Florida afternoon, Severiano Ballesteros was one of three famous golfers to be inducted into the Hall of Fame on Monday, a simple, televised ceremony that took place in front of an audience of several hundred and a sound system that kept breaking down.

As the sun beat down words of praise rang out for Ballesteros, who was lauded for his skills in winning five major championships and more than 70 victories worldwide.

Some of the great and good in golf were in Jacksonville for the ceremony — Kathy Whitworth, Louise Suggs and Carol Mann to applaud the induction of Amy Alcott — as well as Sam Snead, with his trademark straw hat, Byron Nelson and Paul Runyon, who, aged 90, had played a round on each of the three previous days. Roberto de Vicenzo, the Argentinian who won the Open in 1967, introduced Ballesteros.

Speaking in broken English, de Vicenzo said: "Ladies and gentlemen, I give you Ballesteros [which he pronounced as Ballestero] because he is the best player in the world. Thank you."

There was much applause and lionising of Ballesteros, who was there with Carmen, his wife, and their three children. "There have been two phases in golf," de Vicenzo continued. "The one before Arnold Palmer in America and before Ballesteros in Europe." Then de Vicenzo made a reference that must have cut Ballesteros to the quick. "I hope he will regain his form," de Vicenzo said. "I won the Open at 44. He is 42."

The irony of the ceremony was that it came not when Ballesteros was at his peak, but at a time when his golf is at its worst for 30 years. It would take a miracle for him to win the Open and he knows it. The back that used to bother him is better, but now he has tendinitis in his left elbow, a problem with his left shoulder and water on his right knee. "After ten or 12 holes I start limping and losing my strength and by the time I get back to the hotel I am worn out," he said.

Ballesteros said the last time he played well was in 1995, when he won the Spanish Open. "I have had a lot of glory days," Ballesteros said. "If I continue playing it will be because I love the game of golf. Even in a bad round I hit some great shots."

Increasingly, his role is that of an ambassador, a father figure, the man who captained Europe to victory when the Ryder Cup was held in Spain. He is also concentrating on his family — his older son is showing promise. "All I have taught him is the correct grip," Ballesteros said.

Brown relies on change

By Kevin McCarra

SCOTLAND are reluctant adventurers, forced to set off into unknown territory. The misgivings about unfamiliar surroundings are obvious. Faced with a squad that lacks many of the established names, supporters have been slow to buy tickets for the European championship qualifying match against Bosnia-Herzegovina at Ibrox on Saturday, even if the box office will be brisker for the visit of the Czech Republic to Celtic Park next Wednesday.

Change was inevitable, given that Scotland took an ageing squad to the World Cup finals. Colin Hendry, a mainstay of the side, is injured, but the Rangers centre half has confirmed that he will retire from international football next year. If Craig Brown, the Scotland manager, always knew that he would need to undertake some reconstruction, the process is not entirely within his control.

The retirement of Jim Leighton and the injuries to Hendry, John Collins and Kevin Gallacher have stripped worldliness from every area of the team. "When we were sending out good, experienced pros," Brown said, "we knew that no one could give them a hard time. Now, we don't quite know what we will get, but we do have talented young players who can grow up quickly."

Players such as Allan Johnston, of Sunderland, and Callum Davidson, of Blackburn Rovers, have already earned caps, but instead of indulging them, Scotland may soon have to depend on them. Brown notes Niall Quinn's regular goalscoring in the Nationwide League first division, ascribes it to the service that Johnston provides and goes on to hope that the winger's fast, flat crosses will sustain Scotland against a hulking Bosnia defence.



Hendry: mainstay

Barry Ferguson, the Rangers midfield player, has withdrawn from the squad with a groin strain that has proved chronic. A further visit to a specialist is required and he may not play in many of Rangers' remaining games this season.

Where Scotland are concerned, there might not have been much scope, in any case, for coltishness in midfield. It is the one department in which Brown is well served.

He insists on being celebratory about Gary McAllister, 34, who is returning to international action after a serious knee injury. "He is one of the most outstanding midfield players in the Premiership," Brown said, demonstrating that he still prizes his remaining veterans.

Luton call in receivers

■ LUTON TOWN, former winners of the League Cup and owners of a plastic pitch, yesterday followed such famous names as Portsmouth, Crystal Palace and Millwall into the hands of waiting accountants when the club was placed in receivership.

Peter Phillips and John Kelly, of Buchler Phillips — the firm which is also to be made administrators of Palace — were put in charge last night, just before the Nationwide League second division game with Reading. The move followed the decision by Cliff Bassett, a local businessman, to call in a £2.1 million loan to the club.

■ Graham Stuart, 28, the former Chelsea, Everton and England Under-21 forward, yesterday became Charlton Athletic's record signing when he completed a £1.1 million move from Sheffield United.

■ Everton hope to complete the signing of Kevin Campbell, the former Arsenal and Nottingham Forest forward, on loan from Trabzonspor, of Turkey, today.

FOOTBALL IN BRIEF

■ Liverpool will complete the signing of Erik Meijer, the 29-year-old Bayer Leverkusen forward, on a free transfer under the Bosman ruling in the summer.

Campbell: Everton-bound

■ Uefa yesterday rejected an appeal from the Football Association of Wales against the decision to stage the Euro 2000 qualifier against Denmark in June at Anfield. Wales had wanted the match to be played in Cardiff but Europe's governing body ruled last month that it should remain at Anfield.

■ Colin Calderwood, the Scotland defender, yesterday moved from Tottenham Hotspur to Aston Villa for £225,000 on a contract until the end of next season.

■ Jim Smith, the Derby County manager, has failed in an attempt to sign Seth Johnson, the 20-year-old Crewe Alexandra midfield player, before the transfer deadline tomorrow but may try again in the summer.

■ Dundee have allowed Iain Anderson, their Scotland Under-21 winger, to join Chelsea for trials this week in a move that could lead to a permanent move to Stamford Bridge.

Scotland lined up by Hawes and Price

From David Rhys Jones in Cape Town

UNITED Kingdom countries topped all four league tables with one round-robin match to play in the Atlantic Rim pairs and triples championships at Cape Town yesterday.

With four more wins yesterday, Scotland appear to have booked their place in the final of the triples, but have at least to draw with England today to qualify in the pairs. The group B pairs encounter between Kath Hawes and Mary Price, of England, the defending champions, and Margaret Letham and Joyce Lindores, of Scotland, the Commonwealth Games champions, is essentially a knockout for a place in the gold medal play-off.

Ann Sutherland and Rita Jones, of Wales, lead group A but are only one point clear of Lesty Hartwell and Hester Bekker, of South Africa, so they cannot afford to lose to them this morning.

In the triples, Margaret Johnston, back to her best, inspired her Irish trio to a vital 19-16 win over Lorna Trigwell, of South Africa, knocking the hosts off the top of the table. A win over Jersey today will put Ireland in the final, while Wales take on South Africa.

FOR THE RECORD

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Indiana 90 Washington 86, New Jersey 108 Toronto 87, New York 71 Atlanta 80; Dallas 93 Los Angeles Lakers 96, Houston 110 Sacramento 100; Milwaukee 115 Detroit 86; Phoenix 89 Vancouver 84; Seattle 92 Philadelphia 76.

BOWLS

CAPE TOWN: Spar Atlantic Rim Games: Fifth round: Pairs: Group A: South Africa bt Holland 32-7, Ireland (B Cameron and P Nolan) bt Israel 19-16; Jersey (L Murphy and K Horman) bt Zimbabwe 31-12; Wales (A Sutherland and R Jones) bt United States 23-16. Group B: England (K Hawes and M Price) bt Canada 27-11; Namibia bt Swaziland 21-15. Guernsey (P Harding and S Cave) bt Spain 26-13. Scotland (M Letham and J Lindores) bt Argentina 24-14. Triples: Group A: South Africa bt Holland 25-11; Ireland (D McNally, D Kane, M Johnston) bt Israel 22-11; Zimbabwe bt Jersey (L Le Long, C Syvret, S Dingle) 28-6, Wales (G Miles, K Pearce, B Morgan) bt United States 22-10. Group B: Canada bt England (J Baker, C Popple, N Shaw) 16-13; Swaziland bt Namibia 27-11, Spain bt Guernsey (J Martel, J Rose, J Finigan) 19-12; Scotland (J Moran, B Forsyth, S Gourlay) bt Argentina 22-12. Sixth round: Pairs: Group A: Wales bt Jersey 26-16, Zimbabwe bt United States 26-12; Israel bt Holland 20-19, South Africa bt Ireland 27-14. Group B: Scotland bt Guernsey 29-15; Argentina tied with Spain 18-18; Canada bt Swaziland 23-19; England tied with Namibia 20-20. Triples: Group A: Jersey bt Wales 19-15; Zimbabwe bt United States 23-10; Israel bt Holland 40-2, Ireland bt South Africa 19-16. Group B: Scotland bt Guernsey 20-16; Spain bt Argentina 26-8, Swaziland bt Canada 20-18; England bt Namibia 22-18. League positions (after six round robin matches): Pairs: Group A: 1, Wales; 2, South Africa, 3, Israel; 3, Zimbabwe; 5, Jersey; 6, Ireland; 7, United States; 8, Holland. Group B. 1, Scotland, 2, England; 3, Namibia; 4, Guernsey; 5, Canada; 6, Argentina, 7, Spain, 8, Swaziland. Triples: Group A: 1, Ireland; 2, South Africa, 3, Zimbabwe, 4, Wales; 5, Jersey; 6, Israel, 7, United States, 8, Holland. Group B: 1, Scotland; 2, Swaziland; 3, England, 4, Spain; 5, Argentina; 6, Canada; 7, Namibia, 8, Guernsey

CRICKET

Tri-nations tournament
Zimbabwe v Kenya

DHAKA (Zimbabwe won toss): Zimbabwe beat Kenya by 64 runs

ZIMBABWE

N C Johnson run out ... 101
G W Flower c and b T Suji ... 14
M W Goodwin c Chundasama b Karim ... 26
† A Flower lbw b Odoyo ... 73
*A D R Campbell st Otieno b Tikolo ... 0
G J Whittall not out ... 41
D Viljoen lbw b Odoyo ... 0
H H Streak not out ... 10
Extras (b 1, lb 4, w 9, nb 1) ... 15
Total (6 wkts, 50 overs) ... 280

P A Strang, A R Whittall and H H Olonga did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-33, 2-105, 3-190, 4-192, 5-246, 6-246.

BOWLING: Angara 4-0-47-0; T Suji 10-0-61-1; Tikolo 10-0-44-1; Odoyo 10-0-40-2; Karim 10-1-44-1; Odumbe 3-0-20-0, Sheikh 3-0-19-0.

KENYA

D Chundasama lbw b Olonga ... 0
† K Otieno lbw b Streak ... 0
S Tikolo c Olonga b G Flower ... 76
M Odumbe st A Flower b G Flower ... 50
H Modi not out ... 45
A Vadher st A Flower b Campbell ... 1
T Odoyo b Campbell ... 1
T Suji b G Flower ... 7
*A Karim b G Flower ... 0
M Sheikh not out ... 15
Extras (lb 7, w 11, nb 1) ... 19
Total (8 wkts, 50 overs) ... 216

M Suji did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-3, 2-3, 3-134, 4-150, 5-151, 6-155, 7-176, 8-187.

BOWLING: Olonga 4-0-27-1; Streak 6-0-24-1; A R Whittall 6-0-35-0; Strang 7-1-26-0; Viljoen 2-0-15-0; G Flower 10-0-32-4; Campbell 10-2-33-2; G J Whittall 3-0-18-0.

Umpires: P Manuel (Sri Lanka) and V K Ramaswami (India).

TOUR MATCH: St John's, Antigua: Australians 303 (J L Langer 134; C L Hooper 5-53) and 283-8 dec. (M T G Elliott 115; Hooper 4-40); West Indies A 102 and 310 (Hooper 102, S C Williams 50; A C Dale 6-66). Australia beat West Indies A by 154 runs.

FOOTBALL

ARGENTINE LEAGUE: Gimnasia y Esgrima 7 Gimnasia de Jujuy 5.

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Montreal 1 San Jose 1; Tampa Bay 6 New York Rangers 3; Toronto 1 Philadelphia 3; St Louis 5 Carolina 2; Edmonton 2 Calgary 2.

RACKETS

QUEEN'S CLUB: Public schools doubles championship: Second pairs: Quarter-finals: Tonbridge II (S Ulph and N Bluett) bt Cheltenham III (G McEwan and T Joy) 15-9, 15-9, 15-4, 15-7; Malvern III (R Neale and T Huskison) bt Winchester II (B Walter and J Williams) 12-15, 15-9, 15-8, 13-16, 8-15, 17-14, 15-10; Malvern II (J Kontarines and R Tulley) bt Tonbridge III (J Aylward and J Atkinson) 14-17, 15-11, 3-15, 15-8, 15-6, 17-15; Harrow II (A Andjel and O Craven) bt Radley II (S Andrews and G Craig) 18-13, 15-4, 17-15, 9-15, 15-7. Colts: Quarter-finals: Tonbridge (W Montgomerie and G Adams) bt Winchester (L Dancy and J Bailey) 15-9, 15-8, 15-8; Wellington (M Briers and P Burroughs) bt Radley (P Mackenzie-Charrington and C Molavi) 15-3, 8-15, 15-10, 11-15, 15-5. Junior Colts: Quarter-finals: Eton (E Watson and T McCall) bt Malvern (J Baker and L Tulley) 15-6, 10-15, 15-11, 15-7; Marlborough (C Goodman-Smith and B Stoop) bt Radley (M Yorke-Long and K Myers) 15-3, 16-17, 14-17, 15-12, 15-10.

SNOOKER

CO KILDARE: Benson and Hedges Irish Masters: First round: J White (Eng) bt M Williams (Wales) 6-2.

TENNIS

KEY BISCAYNE, Florida: Lipton championships: Men: Fourth round: S Grosjean (Fr) bt C Moyà (Sp) 3-6, 6-4, 7-6; R Krajicek (Neth) bt M Safin (Russ) 6-3, 6-1; F Clavet (Sp) bt V Spadea (US) 7-5, 4-6, 6-4; N Kiefer (Ger) bt G Rusedski (GB) 4-6, 7-5, 6-2; P Sampras (US) bt A Costa (Sp) 6-4 6-4; D Hrbaty (Slovakia) bt M Rios (Chile) 6-2, 6-0. Women: Third round: M Pierce (Fr) bt V Ruano Pascual (Sp) 6-1, 6-1; J Novotna (Cz) bt N Dechy (Fr) 5-7, 6-2, 6-3; V Williams (US) bt F Zuluaga (Col) 6-3, 6-4. Fourth round: M Hingis (Switz) bt M Weingartner 6-0, 6-2; S Graf (Ger) bt N Zvereva (Bela) 6-2, 6-4.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

Nationwide League
First division
Huddersfield v Norwich (7.45)

Nationwide Conference
Forest Green v Kingstonian (7.45)

Scottish League
First division
Hamilton v Ayr (7.45)
Clydebank v Greenock Morton (7.45)

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Southern division: Brackley Town v Raunds Town (7.45), St Leonards v Corby (7.45). Midland division: Cinderford v Hinckley United (7.45), Paget Rovers v Wisbech Town (7.45). League Cup: Semi-final, first leg: Boston United v Sutton Coldfield.

UNIBOND LEAGUE: First division: Belper Town v Trafford (7.45); Bradford Park Avenue v Great Harwood. Cup: Fourth round: Hucknall Town v Farsley Celtic.

RYMAN LEAGUE: First division: Croydon v Uxbridge (7.45). Second division: Harlow v Hemel Hempstead (7.45). Third division: Southall v Croydon Athletic (7.45)

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Barnet v Northampton (2.0). Charlton v Swindon (2.0). Colchester v Brentford (2.0). Fulham v Peterborough (2.0); Southampton v Brighton; Wimbledon v Portsmouth, Wycombe v Watford (2.0).

PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Aston Villa v Preston (7.0). Nottingham Forest v Leeds (7.0). First division: Barnsley v Bolton (7.0). Oldham v Port Vale (7.0). Second division: Stockport v Bradford (7.0); Wrexham v Shrewsbury (7.0); York v Lincoln (7.0). Third division: Darlington v Halifax (2.0); Hull v Walsall (2.0), Rochdale v Wigan (2.0), Scunthorpe v Bury (7.0).

LEAGUE OF WALES: Carmarthen Town v TNS

COMPLETE MUSIC HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Cirencester Academy v Burnham, Fairford v Carterton, Shortwood v Tuffley, Swindon Supermarine v Kintbury.

ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTH LEAGUE: First division: Penrith v Bedlington Terriers.

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Yeovil TR v Bridport (7.45).

MINERVA SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Toddington v Barkingside (7.45).

HIGHLAND LEAGUE: Forres Mechanics v Cove, Rothes v Buckie Thistle.

BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division: Bustleholme v Tividale; Lye Town v Gornal Athletic; Smethwick Rangers v Ludlow Town; Stafford Town v Bnerley Hill Town.

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Fareham v Portsmouth; Hamble ASSC v East Cowes. League Cup: Semi-final, second leg: Eastleigh (0) v Cowes Sports (0)

UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Yaxley v S and L Corby.

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Eastbourne Town v Portfield (7.45); Hassocks v Saltdean.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Hallam v Buxton.

NORTH WESTERN TRAINS: First division: Leek CSOB v Newcastle Town, St Helens Town v Salford.

RUGBY UNION

WELSH LEAGUE: First division: Treorchy v Blackwood (7.0).

AIB LEAGUE: Second division: Dungannon v Malone (7.0).

BUSA CHAMPIONSHIP: Men's final: Swansea v St Mary's, London (Twickenham, 3.0). Women's final: Loughborough v Oxford (Twickenham, 12.0).

RUGBY LEAGUE

NORTHERN FORD PREMIERSHIP: Rochdale v Keighley (7.30).

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Derby Storm v Worthing Bears (8.0); Newcastle Eagles v London Towers (7.0); Thames Valley Tigers v Manchester Giants (8.0).

Salter switches to Broncos again

By Christopher Irvine

MATT SALTER yesterday rejoined London Broncos from the ailing West Hartlepool rugby union club after six months, but he has little time to adjust before the Silk Cut Challenge Cup semi-final against Castleford Tigers at Headingley on Saturday.

The former Great Britain Academy forward is among the substitutes. Dan Stains, the London coach, has been forced to push two second-row forwards, Steele Retchless and Shane Millard, into the front row after injuries to the regular props, Grant Young and Darren Bradstreet.

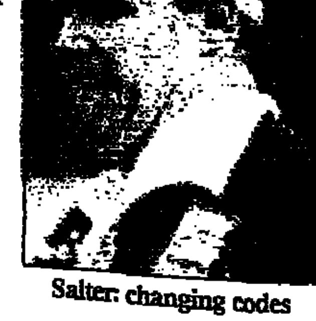
After two seasons with the Broncos, Salter failed to settle at West Hartlepool, where he operated mainly as a flanker. "I'm looking forward to seeing him in action," Stains said. "We're all excited about his decision to return."

Castleford's injury worries have eased in terms of their pack, with Dean Sampson and Aaron Raper, their influential hooker, both fit to play, although the medial-ligament injury to Danny Orr is thought unlikely to heal, despite the inclusion of the stand-off half in their squad.

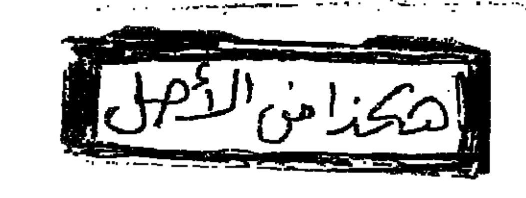
Paul Davidson, the St Helens forward, is suspended for the JJB Super League games with Wigan Warriors and Bradford Bulls over Easter after the Rugby Football League disciplinary committee found him guilty of elbowing Craig Wilson, of Gateshead Thunder, in the match last Sunday.

Andy Gregory, the Salford Reds coach, could find his future decided for him by an internal investigation into criticisms of his players, whom he described as an "absolute disgrace" after the side's defeat by Wakefield Trinity.

A statement from the club said: "The directors were disappointed with Andy's action and felt that his comments were not in the best interests of the club. This was not the first occurrence of its kind and the matter will now be the subject of an internal disciplinary procedure."

Salter: changing codes



RUGBY UNION

Williams claims referees may spoil World Cup

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

LEO WILLIAMS, chairman of Rugby World Cup Ltd (RWC), gave warning yesterday that the global tournament to be played in Britain, Ireland and France this autumn could be spoilt by overzealous refereeing.

In doing so, however, Williams goes against the opinion expressed by leading administrators in the northern hemisphere that standards are not only improving, they are becoming uniform.

Rugby union has always ndured differing interpretans by referees, depending m which hemisphere they me. This season, however, th the International Rugby oard (IRB) demanding that eir leading officials adhere o the board's charter published two years ago, there has been a consistency of approach. This was never better illustrated than on Saturday, when England played France.

The match was handled by Colin Hawke, from New Zealand, in the first half and by Jim Fleming, of Scotland, in the second after Hawke tore a muscle. There was no obvious change and Clive Woodward, the England coach, said: "For the first time there is uniformity. The referees are all following the charter."

However, Williams, the pugnacious Australian, has laid the blame for the indifferent quality of the 1999 Super 12 tournament at the feet of referees. "The game has degenerated as a spectacle this season and if it flows on to the World Cup, it will be disastrous," he said. "Games are being decided by referees, not players. I've seen it in the Five Nations as well. This letter-of-the-law stuff is nonsense. There has to be a degree of discretion."

His remarks will not win friends. The Super 12 seems to have taken on an approach different in tenor not only from northern-hemisphere club rugby but, significantly, different also from international rugby whether played in the north or the south.

Williams will chair a meeting of RWC directors in Buenos Aires next month that precedes the annual meeting of the IRB. His views contrast with the perceived success of this year's Five Nations, which has included spectacular matches between France and Wales in Paris (also handled by Fleming) and between Scotland and Ireland in Edinburgh (refereed by Derek Bevan, of Wales).

"My interest is to ensure the World Cup is the best one we have staged," Williams said. "We already have the most successful financial tournament but we don't want a festival of whistle-blowing, we want a festival of rugby."

The point at issue here, however, is that skill levels in the northern hemisphere have now crept much closer to those of the south, who have won the three previous World Cups. They have done so on the back of defensive performances that, in the case of England, have taken them to the verge of a grand slam but also on the back of changes in attitude that have helped the resurgence of Scotland and Wales; consistent refereeing has surely done something to help such developments.

☐ The cull of Rugby Football Union officials that started earlier this year will claim another victim when Roger Godfrey steps down as administrative secretary in July. Godfrey, 58, has occupied the post for 12 years but now joins other leading figures such as Don Rutherford, Richard Field and David Fison who have gone or are going after economies made by Francis Baron, the chief executive.

Bracken and Rees suffer on sidelines

BY DAVID HANDS

A TRIO of international backs will be unavailable for the final weekend of the Five Nations Championship next month. England will be without Kyran Bracken and David Rees for their grand-slam decider against Wales at Wembley on April 11, and David Humphreys will miss Ireland's non-championship match with Italy in Dublin 24 hours earlier.

Saracens confirmed yesterday that Bracken, who has agreed a new three-year contract with the club, is unlikely to be fit again until May after sustaining damage to a medial ligament against France last Saturday. Rees, the Sale wing, is looking at a similar time-frame with an ankle injury while Humphreys, the Ulster fly half, injured a tendon in his hand early in Ireland's game with Scotland and will be absent for at least eight weeks.

All three players must now be looking to recover in time to travel to Australia with their respective national squads in May. England go into World Cup camp in Queensland for a month, ending with games against Australian Barbarians and Australia, while Ireland have a four-match tour, including two internationals.

Ticket sales for the Wales-England game at Wembley have soared after the Welsh success against France and Italy this month. "We are looking at a sell-out," Lyn Davies, the Welsh Rugby Union spokesman, said. There are little more than 6,000 tickets left at the 79,000-capacity stadium, which Wales are using while Cardiff Arms Park is being rebuilt.

ANDRE CAMARA

Wellington exert impressive control in the lineout on the way to their Festival success

Cox captures festive spirit

BY MICHAEL AYLWIN

THE Shell UK national schools sevens celebrated its diamond jubilee with a suitably sparkling final day to the Festival tournament at Rosslyn Park yesterday.

Wellington College — who eventually prevailed 12-10 in a tight final — and Christ College, Brecon, produced some scintillating moments as they blazed their respective trails to the decisive meeting.

Christ's were marshalled by the laconic creativity of Owen Williams, the Wales Under-18 centre and nephew of JPR Williams, while James Strong, the Wales schools full back, swept with menace.

Rupert Bentley-Smith, the flyer on the wing and another international, benefited with a deluge of tries over the course of the day.

However, the star of the show was little Dave Cox, the Wellington and Wales Schools fly half, who is earmarked for a place in the Wales development squad. His hanging restarts were worth a day off school in themselves, but it was his running with ball in hand that proved to be too much for any of the defences. He ran rings around the powerful physical athletes of Trent College in the semi-finals and his solo break early in the second half of the final proved to be the pivotal point of the match.

It had been a tight affair, with Williams scoring an early try for Christ's, before Angus Moncur replied for Wellington. Cox's conversion gave the Berkshire college a two-point advantage at the break and, ultimately, that proved to be the difference. Williams could not convert a late try by Strong for Christ's and Wellington were able to collect the Festival trophy from Rob Howley and Rob Wainwright.

SCORERS: Wellington College: Tries: Moncur (6min), Cox (12). Conversion: Cox. **Christ College, Brecon:** Tries: Williams (2), Strong (18).
SCORING SEQUENCE (Wellington first): 0-5, 7-5, 12-5, 12-10.
WELLINGTON COLLEGE: A Moncur, M Boden, D Cox, M Wilcocks; J Tencone, D Hanson, K Horstmann.
CHRIST COLLEGE, BRECON: R Bentley-Smith, D Murray, O Williams, C Jones; J Watkins, J Strong, G Sneade (rep: R Legge, 7min)

ICE SKATING

Dancers fail to dispel the gloom

FROM ANGELA COURT IN HELSINKI

FOR Charlotte Clements and Gary Shortland, it may have been a moment to savour, but the sense of gloom as Great Britain's entry in the ice dancing event took their bows in the world figure skating championships here was unmistakable. Even before they had stepped on to the ice, British skating was coming to terms with what is already its worst performance at a world championships for many years, perhaps ever.

Britain has no woman or pair entered, added to which the men — Clive Shorten and Neil Wilson — failed to qualify for the final stages of their competition. This situation is dismal, made worse by the fact that British skating was once highly regarded.

In the late Seventies and early Eighties, Britons won three consecutive Olympic gold medals and even skaters who never made the podium during those years finished inside the top ten more often than not. Now, the sport leaves the Nineties without British skaters in three of the four disciplines at world level.

Anjelika Krylova and Oleg Ovsiannikov, of Russia, won the compulsory dances, ahead of Marina Anissina and Gwendal Peizerat, of France, and Shae-Lynn Bourne and Victor Craatz, of Canada, who are tied for second. Clements and Shortland are seventeenth.

Yet perhaps they should consider themselves lucky to be there at all. International Skating Union (ISU) rules allow 30 skaters in each discipline to qualify for the Olympics, taken from a combination of the previous world championship results and a pre-Olympic qualifying event. Last year, the British Olympic Association (BOA) additionally laid down its own criteria of skaters having to finish in the top half of a world-class field before gaining selection. Last year, Britain qualified in all four disciplines under ISU rules, but in only one under the BOA's rules.

If this week is anything to go by — with the exception of the ice dancers — Britain would not meet even the ISU criteria, and that should be rudimentary.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Early bird given late start at Sawgrass

■ **GOLF:** Colin Montgomerie partners John Daly in the first two rounds of the Players Championship in Sawgrass, Florida, tomorrow and Friday. But, after being part of the dawn chorus in the Bay Hill Invitational last week, Montgomerie has a long wait before he can begin his challenge.

He tees off at 1.21pm local time [6.21pm in Britain] with Daly and Andrew Magee, who was runner-up to Jeff Maggert in the World Match Play championship last month.

Nick Faldo starts just before them with Vijay Singh, the US PGA champion, and David Toms, while Ian Woosnam, who tees off with with Tom Purtzer and Harrison Frazar, starts immediately behind.

Lee Westwood, who finished fifth last year, starts his round at 8.22am with Steve Elkington, who has won the event twice, and Chris Perry.

■ **CYCLING:** Marco Pantani, of Italy, the Tour de France champion, whose main goal this season is to win the world title on home soil in Verona, may not defend his title. Giuseppe Martinelli, the Mercatone team director, said: "He has to do the Vuelta [Tour of Spain] to tackle the world championships in his best shape." *Pantani has been in fine early-season form, winning the Tour of Murcia.*

■ **RUGBY UNION:** *Swansea University, holders of the British Universities Sports Association (BUSA) title, defend their trophy at Twickenham today against St Mary's College, University of London. St Mary's are appearing in their first BUSA final.*

■ **BOXING:** Robert Norton, of Stourbridge, who has lost just once in his 20 professional bouts, challenges Jacob Mofokeng, the South African champion, for the World Boxing Union cruiserweight title at the Aston Villa Leisure Centre next Thursday.

SNOOKER

White gets down to business

IMMY WHITE, who has always made the most of his visits to Dublin, either from a recreational or professional standpoint, yesterday vindicated the sponsor's decision to award him a wild-card invitation to the Benson and Hedges Irish Masters at Goffs (Phil Yates writes).

White's extended stay in one of the city's finest hotels during the 1980s was the subject of a colourful passage in his biography, *Behind the White Ball*, published recently, but the present visit is serious business.

With the final qualifying round of the Embassy world championship in Telford nine days away, White is looking to boost his confidence. A 6-2 victory over Mark Williams will have gone some way down the road to such an objective.

Williams, winner of the Irish Open, Welsh Open and Thailand Masters this season, led 2-1 after a break of 65 in the third frame, which proved to be the highest of a scrappy encounter. He amassed only 43 points in the next four frames, though, as White took control.

NATIONAL SCHOOLS SEVENS RESULTS

COLTS: Group A: City of London Freeman's 14 Dwr-y-Felin 33; Torquay 12 Adams GS 26; City of London Freeman's 0 Torquay 32; Dwr-y-Felin 12 Adams GS 24; City of London Freeman's 14 Adams GS 31; Dwr-y-Felin 26 Torquay 5. **Group winners:** Adams GS.
GROUP B: Ivybridge 5 Dulwich Col 31; Windsor Boys 24 St Paul's 0; Ivybridge 0 Windsor Boys 34; Dulwich 33 St Paul's 7; Ivybridge 15 St Paul's 29; Dulwich 19 Windsor Boys 15. **Group winners:** Dulwich.
GROUP C: John Fisher 14 Llanhari 31; St Edward's, Oxford 19 Downside 0; John Fisher 28 St Edward's, Oxford 17; Llanhari 38 Downside 10; John Fisher 36 Downside 12; Llanhari 29 St Edward's, Oxford 12. **Group winners:** Llanhari.
GROUP D: St Peter's, York 12 Bryanston 7; Wallington 24 Bassingbourn 12; St Peter's, York 40 Wallington 7; Bryanston 43 Bassingbourn 0; St Peter's, York 36 Bassingbourn 5; Bryanston 24 Wallington 17. **Group winners:** St Peter's, York.
GROUP E: Whitchurch 43 Eltham 0; RGS Guildford 12 Judd 38; 26 RGS Guildford 7; Eltham 24 Judd 24; Whitchurch 19 Judd 12; Eltham 24 RGS Guildford 31. **Group winners:** Whitchurch.
GROUP F: Cavendish w/o Colfe's; RGS High Wycombe 29 St Ignatius 0; Cavendish 24 RGS High Wycombe 7; St Ignatius w/o Colfe's; Cavendish 32 St Ignatius 5; RGS High Wycombe w/o Colfe's. **Group winners:** Cavendish.
GROUP G: Queen Elizabeth's, Barnet 29 Ryde 0; St George's, Weybridge 15 Strade 21; Queen Elizabeth's, Barnet 29 St George's, Weybridge 7; Ryde 7 Strade 44; Queen Elizabeth's, Barnet 19 Strade 19; Ryde 10 St George's, Weybridge 29. **Group winners:** Strade.
GROUP H: Pangbourne 24 Tregib 12; Beverley 5 Haberdashers' Aske's 22; Pangbourne 38 Beverley 12; Tregib 19 Haberdashers' Aske's 24; Pangbourne 24 Haberdashers' Aske's 31; Tregib 29 Beverley 17. **Group winners:** Haberdashers' Aske's.
GROUP I: St John's 0 Colston's 34; Broxbourne 17 Emanuel 17; St John's 5 Broxbourne 32; Colston's 14 Emanuel 12; St John's 7 Emanuel 37; Colston's 40 Broxbourne 10. **Group winners:** Colston's.
GROUP J: St Benedict's 21 Howard of Effingham 12; King's, Taunton 21 Mill Hill 7; St Benedict's 12 King's, Taunton 12; Howard of Effingham 7 Mill Hill 33; St Benedict's 26 Mill Hill 10; Howard of Effingham 7 King's, Taunton 25. **Group winners:** King's, Taunton.
GROUP K: St Ambrose 26 Canford 22; Chislehurst and Sidcup 5 Gwyr 43; St Ambrose 33 Chislehurst and Sidcup 28; Canford 0 Gwyr 38; St Ambrose 14 Gwyr 17; Canford 24 Chislehurst and Sidcup 14. **Group winners:** Gwyr.
GROUP L: St Joseph's, Ipswich 24 Whitgift 19; John Cleveland 26 Milton Abbey 7; St Joseph's, Ipswich 34 John Cleveland 0; Whitgift 36 Milton Abbey 7; St Joseph's, Ipswich 41 Milton Abbey 0; Whitgift 21 John Cleveland 14. **Group winners:** St Joseph's, Ipswich.
GROUP M: Berkhamsted 5 Caterham 17; King Henry VIII, Coventry 26 Princethorpe 12; Berkhamsted 7 King Henry VIII, Coventry 38; Caterham 12 Princethorpe 22; Berkhamsted 19 Princethorpe 31; Caterham 7 King Henry VIII, Coventry 22. **Group winners:** King Henry VIII, Coventry.
GROUP N: Arnold 57 Ibstock Place 0; Halliford w/o Cyfarthfa; Arnold w/o Cyfarthfa; Ibstock Place 5 Halliford 64, Arnold 14 Halliford 39; Ibstock Place w/o Cyfarthfa. **Group winners:** Halliford.
GROUP O: Reading 24 Durham 19; Enfield 19 Sherborne 21, Reading 28 Enfield 0; Durham 24 Sherborne 5; Reading 49 Sherborne 14; Durham 43 Enfield 5. **Group winners:** Reading.
GROUP P: Aylesbury 0 Glantaf 43; Haberdashers' Aske's, Hatcham 10 Rugby 24; Aylesbury 48 Haberdashers' Aske's, Hatcham 0; Glantaf 14 Rugby 17; Aylesbury 7 Rugby 17; Glantaf 31 Haberdashers' Aske's, Hatcham 12. **Group winners:** Rugby.
GROUP Q: Worth 7 Devenant Foundation 22; Eton 26 Licensed Victuallers 17; Worth 0 Eton 15; Devenant Foundation 5 Licensed Victuallers 21; Worth 12 Licensed Victuallers 17; Devenant Foundation 0 Eton 38. **Group winners:** Eton.
GROUP R: St John's, Leatherhead 28 Rhymni 5; Bedford 24 St Peter's, Glos 0; St John's, Leatherhead 17 Bedford 26; Rhymni 24 St Peter's, Glos 45; St John's, Leatherhead 19 St Peter's, Glos 19, Rhymni 14 Bedford 24. **Group winners:** Bedford.
GROUP S: Skinners 7 Brighton 24; Cardinal Vaughan w/o Stowe; Skinners 34 Cardinal Vaughan 5; Brighton w/o Stowe: Skinners w/o Stowe; Brighton 19 Cardinal Vaughan 5. **Group winners:** Brighton.
GROUP T: Tiffin w/o Warwick; Hymers 24 Leigh CTC 0; Hymers w/o Warwick; Tiffin 26 Leigh CTC 5; Leigh CTC w/o Warwick; Tiffin 26 Hymers 10. **Group winners:** Tiffin.
GROUP U: Eastbourne w/o Pant; The Oratory 17 Eastbourne 28; The Oratory w/o Pant. **Group winners:** Eastbourne.
GROUP V: Claire's Court 14 Wellington Col 21; Burnside 22 Castle 12; Claire's Court 22 Burnside 7; Wellington Col 29 Castle 5; Claire's Court 22 Castle 14; Wellington Col 24 Burnside 14. **Group winners:** Wellington Col.
GROUP W: Millfield 31 Lord William's, Thame 7; Chichester 12 Campion 21; Millfield 42 Chichester 0; Lord William's, Thame 5 Campion 38; Millfield 29 Campion 0; Lord William's, Thame 17 Chichester 10. **Group winners:** Millfield.
COLTS: Knockout stages: First round: Adams GS 19 Dulwich 12; Strade 36 Haberdashers' Aske's 0; Colston's 24 King's, Taunton 26, King Henry VIII, Coventry 22 Halliford 12; Eton 17 Bedford 28; Brighton 14 Tiffin 19; Wellington Col 5 Millfield 30. **Second round:** Adams GS 17 Llanhari 12; St Peter's, York 47 Whitchurch 0; Cavendish 17 Strade 15; King's, Taunton 10 Gwyr 28; St Joseph's, Ipswich 0 King Henry VIII, Coventry 40; Reading 28 Rugby 5; Bedford 33 Tiffin 12; Eastbourne 5 Millfield 28.
FESTIVAL: Second round: Bryanston 10 Trent 36, Uppingham 0 Dean Close 17; Giggleswick 5 Wellington Col 31, RGS Guildford 5 St Edward's, Oxford 26, Taunton 7 Brighton Col 31, Eton 0 Christ Coll 43; Plymouth 15 Colston's 22; King Edward's, Bath 29 Rossall 17. **Quarter-finals:** Trent 22 Dean Close 12; Wellington Col 19 St Edward's, Oxford 7; Brighton Col 20 Christ Col 26; Colston's 7 King Edward's, Bath 19. **Semi-finals:** Trent 10 Wellington Col 14; Christ Col 33 King Edward's, Bath 12. **Final:** Wellington Col 12 Christ Col 10.

SNOW REPORTS



	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	Conditions Piste	Conditions Runs to Resort	Conditions Off/p	Weather (5pm)	°C	Last snow
Andorra								
Soldeu	70	60	Good	Open	Varied	Sun	-1	22/3
Austria								
Obergurgl	45	280	Good	Open	Varied	Snow	-4	23/3
Soll	60	160	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	0	23/3
St Anton	90	500	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-1	23/3
Canada								
Lake Louise	148	151	Good	Open	Varied	Sun	4	16/3
France								
Alpe d'Huez	178	350	Good	Open	Powder	Fair	12	22/3
Avoriaz	250	270	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	6	23/3
La Clusaz	45	280	Good	Open	Powder	Cloud	-3	23/3
La Plagne	170	280	Good	Open	Powder	Cloud	-7	22/3
La Tania	101	236	Good	Open	Powder	Cloud	2	22/3
Les Arcs	135	336	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	8	23/3
Tignes	158	300	Good	Open	Powder	Sun	-10	22/3
Val Thorens	130	300	Good	Open	Powder	Cloud	2	22/3
Valmorel	101	235	Good	Open	Powder	Cloud	1	22/3
Italy								
Cervinia	110	200	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	0	23/3
Cortina	70	180	Good	Open	Varied	Sun	4	22/3
Livigno	80	198	Good	Open	Varied	Cloud	0	22/3
M di Campiglio	60	130	Good	Open	Powder	Sun	-5	22/3
Norway								
Geilo	110	110	Good	Open	Varied	Sun	8	21/3
Switzerland								
Crans Montana	65	270	Good	Open	Powder	Cloud	-3	22/3
Davos	145	315	Good	Open	Powder	Cloud	-3	22/3
Grindelwald	180	310	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-1	23/3
Klosters	100	300	Good	Open	Powder	Cloud	-3	22/3
Murren	80	650	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	1	23/3
Saas Fee	75	280	Good	Open	Powder	Cloud	0	22/3
St Moritz	65	180	Good	Open	Varied	Snow	2	23/3
Verbier	70	195	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	1	23/3
Villars	50	240	Good	Open	Powder	Cloud	-2	22/3
Wengen	70	160	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	1	23/3
Zermatt	70	230	Good	Open	Powder	Cloud	0	22/3

http://www.skiclub.co.uk L = lower slopes; U = upper slopes

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 42

HAGGADAY
(a) A kind of door-latch. Local dialect in Yorkshire and Lincolnshire. "A haggaday is frequently put upon a cottage door, on the side, without anything projecting outwards by which it may be lifted. A little slit is made in the door, and the latch can only be raised by inserting therein a nail or slip of metal."

JESSE
(a) A genealogical tree representing the pedigree of Christ, from the root of Jesse (*cf. Isaiah xvi, 12*). Used in churches in the Middle Ages as a decoration for a wall, window, vestment, etc., or in the form of a large branched candlestick. "It was wrought into a form of a large branched candlestick called a Jesse, in the year 1097 Hugo de ... anched candlestick called a Jesse, in the year 1097 Hugo de ...ori, abbot of St Augustine's, Canterbury, bought for his church a candlestick of this kind, *quod* Jesse *vocatur*."

KARATCH
(a) The same as *caratch*. The poll-tax levied by the Turks on their Christian subjects.

HARFANG
(b) The Great Snowy Owl. From the Norse, *har* a hare, plus *fanga* to catch. "The harfang or Great Snowy Owl is found in very high northern latitudes, of both the Old and the New World."

SOLUTION TO WINNING MOVE
... Rd2+! 2 Kxd2 Nxf3+ and the white queen is lost.

Pandering to public bloodlust

SIMON BARNES



Midweek View

I don't know what it is that England managers get up to in their past lives, but it must be pretty bad. Certainly the punishment that has been handed out to them during their present journeys across the Vale of Maya could only fit some truly dreadful crimes. They can't all have been Nero, can they?

A BBC flyer roosting on the doormat told me that tonight, the past four England football managers/coaches will "hit back at the press for turning their job into a lion's den". They do so in a programme called *The Lion's Den*. It is to be presented by Brian Alexander, who briefly worked as a down-table sub-editor on this newspaper, where he clearly learnt all he knew, because he went on to become sports editor of *The Sun*, the one responsible for turning Graham Taylor into a turnip.

Alexander, wisely now preferring the glamour medium, will be hearing from Taylor, Bobby Robson, Terry Venables and Glenn Hoddle. It is a simple but clever idea. At my junior school there was one day a year on which, as a fund-raising stunt, pupils were entitled to throw wet sponges at the teachers and — glory! — the teachers could not hit back. This programme follows the same format.

It is a golden opportunity for a good old whinge in front of a wholly sympathetic audience. Everybody hates the press, as libel lawyers will tell you with untrammelled glee. It doesn't stop them reading newspapers, but "hating the press" is seen now as an ineluctable aspect of the human condition.

My first reaction is to dismiss it all with an airy wave of the hand and to make a remark about heat and kitchens. Partly this is trade union solidarity with fellow scribes and turnip-makers, partly it is an impatience with the lack of logical thought behind most of the anti-press whinges. If you order a vindaloo, don't whinge to the waiter about your curry being too spicy.

'Teachers could not hit back'

No doubt we shall hear that the nature of the criticism aimed at England managers is "unfair to their families". Well, that is fame for you: if you don't want to be famous, it is best not to enter public life. And — contrary to the belief of every would-be famous person — you don't get fame on your own terms.

But then I think of some of the deliberately wounding attacks on England managers and, to be fair, some of it really is not fair.

Robson is the most obvious example of unfairness. He made a pretty good fist of the job. World Cup quarter-finalist in 1986, semi-finalist in 1990. But he was pursued with extraordinary relentlessness. *The Sun's* headline after a disappointing result against Saudi Arabia — In The Name Of Allah, Go! — is merely the most memorable example. Robson did all right but, under the pressures of the job, he aged visibly before the eyes of the nation. He continues in football management to this day, a decent football manager and a decent man.

Taylor is another decent and very likeable man. Certainly the job was too much for him. And there is no ducking the genius of *The Sun's* headline that greeted his team's defeat by Sweden — Swedes 2 Turnips 1. But did Taylor really *deserve* the personal abuse, the personal mocking?

Venables always managed to get a good, not to say slavish press — at least, on the football side. The harder-nosed news reporters have kept an eagle — perhaps I mean vulture — eye on his business dealings. No one weeps for Venables there. True, plenty of other people have been involved in similar business deals without getting so much media coverage. But being a famous footballing man and a businessman is a tough double to bring off, and Venables didn't make it.

'Did Taylor deserve the abuse?'

Hoddle was the author of his own demise. He told a reporter about his beliefs and was dismayed by the public response to them. He is inclined to see himself as a media martyr, hounded out of office by a vile press for beliefs sincerely held. This was a bizarre episode, but it was the public response to Hoddle's beliefs, not the reporting of them, that persuaded the Football Association to fire him.

But there is, in truth, something distasteful about the frenzy that occurs once the blood of an England manager can be smelt. Why, then, does it happen? Well, it wouldn't happen at all if it didn't sell papers and it wouldn't sell papers if people didn't want to read it.

Unreal expectations are the dominant fact of the England manager's life: he has to win every match, including the World Cup final, or he is Letting Us Down. And the only England manager to win a World Cup final was sacked.

An England manager who has Let Us Down must pay the price. It is not the press that demands it, but the public, for the press, as a rule, articulates rather than creates the national mood. The public hounding of England football managers is distasteful, irrational and unfair. But if it didn't satisfy an incontinent public need, it wouldn't happen. The press is just doing what it has always done — seeking to please the public.



Makinen, in his Mitsubishi Lancer, and Risto Mannisenmaki, his co-driver, strive to make up lost ground yesterday. Photograph: José Manuel Ribeiro

McRae keeps rivals at bay

FROM JEREMY HART IN OPORTO

COLIN McRAE survived a relentless 17-hour onslaught from the Toyotas of Carlos Sainz and Didier Auriol and the Subaru of Richard Burns yesterday to hold on to a half-minute lead in the Rally of Portugal.

Through a tortuous marathon of ten timed stages, held in baking temperatures of 90F, the Briton fought off the three-pronged attack from the front. By nightfall in Oporto, McRae, driving for Ford, had lost only 16 seconds of the 49-second advantage that he had held at dawn. It was, if anything, an even more impressive drive than his dominating display of the day before.

"I was expecting to lose more of my lead today," the Scot, the 1995 world champion, said. "Starting first on the road is a disadvantage. The road is rougher and the spectators are often not ready when we come through at full tilt. To still have a half-minute advantage with three short stages to go is a relief.

"I thought we were pretty well on the limit on Monday, but I had to dig deep and find some more today. The Toyotas were fast and if I had given them an inch, they would have taken a mile."

Auriol finished the day shattered, mentally and physically, having held second place at one stage before conceding it to Sainz, of Spain. Never before, the Frenchman said, had he fought so hard to try to close a gap: "I gave it everything today. I pushed as hard as I could, but Colin was just too quick. I think the rally is now his."

As if the attentions of the chasing pack were not enough, McRae's job was made harder by a team of inept timing officials, who failed to set accurately the rally's complex timing equipment. McRae estimated that he lost up to five seconds as a result.

"This rally is stuck in the past," he said. "The only saving grace is they seem to have sorted the crowd control problems that have plagued the rally for years."

From second place at the start yesterday, Burns, the British No 2, dropped back to fourth place, a victim of tyres that were unable to cope with the slippery dust roads.

"I have tried everything," Burns said. "I have been bouncing off banks in sixth gear. I can't do any more than the grip lets me, which isn't enough. Second [place] should have been mine."

Tommi Makinen, of Finland, the world champion, recovered some of the two minutes that he lost on Monday when his Mitsubishi was slowed with a transmission problem. Last night, he had climbed to fifth and was on course to hold on to a slender lead in the championship.

"I have lost the advantage I had at the start of the season," Makinen said. "Having second [place] taken away from me in Africa could hurt a lot later in the year. And getting only three or four points here is not really enough."

McRae, however, was contemplating his second success in consecutive events, having won the Safari Rally, and a memorable family double. Escaping the spotlight, Alister McRae, Colin's brother, led the Formula Two class in his Hyundai. Half a minute behind was Kenneth Eriksson, his team-mate.

"It would be great if Colin can win the rally and I can win Formula Two," Alister McRae, a former British rally champion, said, "but we're not celebrating yet. There's 40 miles of the stage to go."

POSITIONS

AFTER STAGE 17: 1, C McRae (GB, Ford) 3hr 23min 22.6sec; 2, C Sainz (Sp, Toyota) at 33sec; 3, D Auriol (Fr, Toyota) 34.9; 4, R Burns (GB, Subaru) 57.7; 5, T Makinen (Fin, Mitsubishi) 1.28.5; 6, B Thiry (Bel, Subaru) 6.19.6; 7, V Isik (Tur, Toyota) 8:11.1; 8, M Kahle (Ger, Toyota) 8:23 9, 9, R Madeira (Por, Subaru) 8:51 4; 10, P Solberg (Fin, Ford Focus) 9:22.8

LINKS

WEBSITE: www.rallysport.com — news and results service

TELEVISION: Eurosport, 7.30am, 11.30pm (highlights)

Hackett eclipses oldest record

SWIMMING

By Craig Lord

GRANT HACKETT, a lean and mean endurance specialist known to Australians as The Machine, yesterday broke the oldest world swimming record among men, the ten-year 200 metres freestyle standard of Giorgio Lamberti, of Italy. Hackett then announced that he is likely to drop the event from his Olympic programme for Sydney 2000.

As world champion over 1,500 metres, Hackett, 18, from Queensland, had looked upon the 200 metres as a sprint ticket into the world record books merely as a member of the all-conquering Australia 4 x 200 metres team.

But his stunning time of 1min 46.67sec — 0.02sec inside the time Lamberti recorded to become European champion in 1989 — as lead-off man for his Miami club's 4 x 200m relay at the Australian national championships in Brisbane yesterday has upset the order of things among the fastest set of freestylers to emerge from one country in the same era.

Hackett is favourite to win the Olympic 1,500 metres title and is a contender for the gold medal in the 400 metres freestyle, alongside Ian Thorpe, his team-mate.

He beat both Thorpe and Michael Klim, the world 200 metres champion, in the 200 metres in Brisbane at the weekend, in 0.3sec slower than Lamberti's best. Now, as the fastest 200 metres freestyler in the world, he is almost certain to form part of the 4 x 200 metres quartet and, as such, will face a marathon race schedule of 4,800 metres in Sydney. However, Hackett said yesterday that he would drop the individual 200 metres from his race programme first if his Olympics burden proves too great.

Susan O'Neill, the Olympic 200 metres butterfly champion, was also in record-breaking mood yesterday, eclipsing the Commonwealth 200 metres freestyle mark set by June Croft, of Great Britain, in 1982.

O'Neill's time of 1min 59.11sec was well inside Croft's 1:59.74 and augurs well for her ambition to break the oldest surviving record in world swimming, in the 200 metres butterfly, today. That has stood at 2min 05.96sec to Mary T. Meagher, of the United States, since August, 1981.

TELEVISION CHOICE

In search of serpents

Deadly Rattlesnakes with Steve Irwin
ITV, 8pm

"There's a good little rattler," soothes Steve Irwin in his laid-back Australian drawl. He's in America in search of rattlesnakes and "as I'm a professional herpetologist I would not like to be nipped". Viewers may recall Irwin's debut last year when he let some of the most venomous snakes in Australia lick his face. Now he's knee-deep in "the most highly evolved snakes in the world — perhaps the pinnacle of reptile evolution". He likes to get in close: "It's my way of demonstrating the beauty of these misunderstood creatures." And he prides himself on never getting bitten although the Western Diamondback can, as you'll see, strike at up to 175mph and the Mojave Rattler, with venom 20 times more toxic than the Diamondback, seems to have killed a fair proportion of the population of Arizona.



The Australian Steve Irwin travels across the US in search of rattlesnakes (ITV, 8pm)

Trouble at the Top: Degsy Rides Again
BBC2, 9pm

Built like Robbie Coltrane, the titanic businessman John Myers brooks no rivals. He has opened a new radio station in the already highly competitive North and tonight we watch how he did it. The station is Century 105 Manchester and Myers, an experienced broadcaster himself, is taking no chances. He floods money into it — fighting for his biggest coup, commentary rights for the Manchester United games — to the tune of £3 million. And he sacks people like there's no tomorrow (which for them, there isn't). His biggest headache is trying to make a phone-in host out of Derek Hatton, the infamous former politician.

Laughter in the House
BBC1, 10pm (Northern Ireland, 10.50pm)

Not just another excuse for Auntie to recycle her comedy — more a genuinely sociological look, through a three-part *Omnibus* special, at how television sitcoms evolved, how they reflected the mores and thinking of their day and in some instances anticipated them. Go back four or five decades and the influence of American sitcoms, such as *I Love Lucy* and *Life with the Lions*, was paramount. The British could enjoy them because, being American, they were classless. In those days one didn't poke fun at class. But radio was doing well with *Take It From Here* — and then came Hancock who emptied the pubs with his take-off of the aspiring middle class. **Elizabeth Cowley**

The Lion's Den
BBC1, 11.25pm (Northern Ireland, 12.15am)

While England international footballers proudly wear three lions on their shirts, their managers must be mindful of the journalistic lions lying in wait. Three days before the latest national coach, Kevin Keegan, watches England tackle Poland in a vital European championship qualifier at Wembley, Brian Alexander interviews his four predecessors about the perils of the job: Bobby Robson, Graham Taylor, Terry Venables and Glenn Hoddle. It is Hoddle's second big television interview since his comments to Matt Dickinson, *The Times's* football reporter, precipitated his dismissal, and his views on the relationship between media and management could be interesting. **Louise Godfrey**

RADIO CHOICE

Old Harry's Game
Radio 4, 11pm

Return for a third series of the show that won "best radio comedy" at the British Comedy awards last year. That was not a universally acclaimed verdict but *Old Harry's Game* deserved it in my view for the orginality of Andy Hamilton's script (he also stars as Satan). Tonight, Hell has taken delivery of 200 men in their sixties from cities all over the US and Europe, all wearing nothing but their pyjamas and a broad smile. "Oh God, I hate Viagra," comments Satan, "what a stupid drug for a sex-mad species to invent." As ever, Satan is surrounded by incompetent assistants with the IQ of a Baldrick: "Next time you're sacrificing a living animal to the forces of darkness, don't use a tortoise, it's not very practical."

Giants of Soul
Radio 2, 9pm

It is always pleasant to welcome a new series with a title that actually tells us what the programme is all about and soul fans will enjoy the opener, which is the story of James Brown. Hang on a minute, I ought to clarify that: I happen to be a soul fan but have never much liked James Brown: the showmanship sometimes obscures the talent and the controversy doesn't help, either. But talent he undoubtedly has. This is one of the few occasions when an hour hardly seems enough, but the programme, presented by Daryl Hall, manages to cram in the long singing career, the drugs busts and the 1988 car chase which ended with Brown serving a three-year jail sentence for drugs and firearms offences. **Peter Barnard**

RADIO 1 (BBC)

6.30am Zoe Ball **9.00** Simon Mayo **12.00** Jo Whiley **2.00pm** Mark Radcliffe **4.00** Chris Moyles **5.45** Newsbeat **6.00** Dave Pearce **8.00** Steve Lamacq: The Evening Session **10.00** Movie Update with Mark Kermode **10.10** John Peel **12.00** Gilles Peterson **2.00am** Clive Warren **4.00** Scott Mills

RADIO 2 (BBC)

6.00am Sarah Kennedy **7.30** Wake Up to Wogan **9.30** Ken Bruce **12.00** Jimmy Young **2.00pm** Ed Stewart **5.05** Johnnie Walker **7.00** Nick Barraclough **8.00** Mike Harding **9.00** Giants of Soul. See Choice (1/8) **10.00** Top of the Pops 2 on 2 **10.30** Richard Allinson **12.00** Katrina Leskanich **3.00am** Mo Dutta

RADIO 5 LIVE (BBC)

5.00am Morning Reports **6.00** Breakfast **9.00** Nicky Campbell **12.00** The Midday News with Annie Webster **1.00pm** Ruscoe and Co **4.00** Drive with Peter Allen and Jane Garvey **7.00** News Extra. A full round-up, including a sports bulletin **7.30** John Inverdale's Football Night. Action from the football league. Plus, the National Lottery draw **10.00** Littlejohn. No-nonsense football talk on tonight's European and domestic action **11.00** Late Night Live with Nick Robinson **1.00am** Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00am The Big Boys Breakfast **9.00** Scott Chisholm & Sally James **12.00** Let's Talk Pets **1.00pm** Anna Raeburn **4.00** The Sports Zone **7.00** Off Side with Sebastian Coe **8.00** The Big Issues **10.00** James Whale **1.00am** Ian Collins

VIRGIN

6.30am Chris Evans **9.30** Russ Williams **1.00pm** Nick Abbot **4.00** Harriet Scott **6.45** Pete and Geoff **10.00** Gary Davies **1.00am** Richard Allen **4.30** Phil Kennedy

BBC WORLD SERVICE

5.00am The World Today **7.00** World News **7.15** Outlook **7.55** My Century **8.00** World News **8.05** Westway **8.20** Off the Shelf: Enduring Love **8.35** One Planet **9.00** World News **9.05** Sounds Right **9.20** World Ranking **9.50** Sports Round-Up **10.00** Newsdesk **10.30** Britain Today **10.45** Legal World **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** Sports International **12.00** World News **12.05pm** Outlook **12.45** Sports Round-Up **1.00** Newshour **2.00** World News **2.05** One Planet **2.30** Meridian Live **3.00** World News **3.05** Sports Round-Up **3.15** From Our Own Correspondent **3.30** Jazzmatazz **4.00** World News **4.15** Insight **4.30** Multitrack: X-Press **5.00** Europe Today **5.30** World Business Report **5.45** Sports Round-Up **6.00** World News **6.15** Britain Today **6.30** Sports International **7.00** World News **7.05** One Planet **7.30** Legal World **7.45** Off the Shelf: Enduring Love **8.00** Newshour **9.00** World News **9.05** World Business Report **9.20** Britain Today **9.30** Meridian **10.00** World News **10.15** Sports Round-Up **10.30** Multitrack: X-Press **11.00** World News **11.05** Outlook **11.45** Insight **12.00** The World Today **12.30am** One Planet **12.55** My Century **1.00** The World Today **1.30** Meridian Live **2.00** The World Today **2.30** Everywoman **3.00** The World Today **3.20** Sports Round-Up **3.30** World Business Report **3.45** Insight **4.00** The World Today

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Nick Bailey's Easier Breakfast. Information updates and music to ease you into the day **8.00** Henry Kelly. Includes the Hall of Fame Hour and CD of the Week **12.00** Lunchtime Requests. Jane Jones introduces listeners' favourite pieces of classical music **2.00pm** Concerto. Litolff (Concerto Sinfonique No 4 in D minor) **3.00** Jamie Crick. Including infromation updates, Continuous Classics and Afternoon Romance **6.30** Newsnight. Headlines, arts news and guests **7.00** Smooth Classics at Seven. John Brunning introduces easy-listening sounds **9.00** Evening Concert. Rachmaninov (Symphony No 2 in E minor; Piano Concerto No 2 in C minor, The Rock) **11.00** Mann at Night. Music and conversation through until the small hours with Alan Mann **2.00am** Concerto. Litolff (Concerto Sinfonique No 4 in D minor) (r) **3.00** Mark Griffiths introduces the Early Breakfast Show

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air Penny Gore presents arts news and music. Tippett (Fantasia concertante on a Theme of Corelli); Haydn (Sonata in G, H XVI 40)
9.00 Masterworks with Peter Hobday. Vivaldi (Concerto in D minor, RV566); Zelenka (Confitebor tibi, Domine); Grieg (Lyric Pieces, Book 3)
10.30 Artist of the Week: The Labeque Sisters
11.00 Sound Stories: Islands Richard Baker investigates music by Icelandic composers
12.00 Composer of the Week: Schubert
1.00pm The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert Thomas Ades, piano. Beethoven (Six Bagatelles, Op 126); Janacek (In the Mists) (r)
2.00 The BBC Orchestras BBC National Orchestra of Wales under David Atherton and Tadaaki Otaka, Kathryn Stott, piano. Stravinsky (Petrushka, 1947 version); Rachmaninov (Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini); Glazunov (Symphony No 3 in D)
4.00 Choral Evensong Live from Terrington St Clement Parish Church, Norfolk, sung by the choir of Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, with the Cambridge Baroque Camerata
5.00 In Tune with Sean Rafferty. Music includes Bruch (Romance for viola and orchestra); Beethoven (Choral Fantasia in C minor)
7.30 Performance on 3 Live from City Hall, Newcastle, a concert celebrating the 50th birthday of composer John Casken. Kyra Humphries, violin, Northern Sinfonia under Nicholas Kraemer. Lully (Prelude: Airs pour la carrousel de monseigneur); Ravel (Pavane pour une infante defunte); Faure, orch anon (Apres une reve, Op 7 No 1); Casken (Apres une silence) **8.20** Interval. Lynne Walker talks to John Casken **8.40** Concert, part two Faure (Suite: Pelleas et Melisande); Rameau (Suite: Les boreades)
9.35 Postscript: The Body Politic (3/5)
10.00 Ensemble Includes Janacek (Violin Sonata), performed by Nicola Loud, Sam Haywood, piano; Elgar (String Quartet in E minor, Op 83, slow mvt), performed by the Coull Quartet
10.45 Night Waves Laura Cumming discusses this rich cultural history and investigates the importance of Sikh identity in modern India
11.30 Jazz Notes Alyn Shipton talks to George Melly about the singers and songs that have influenced his career
12.00 Composer of the Week: Strauss (r)
1.00am Through the Night **1.00** Arturo Benedetti Michelangeli (piano) plays Bach arr Busoni, Scarlatti, Schumann, Debussy and Chopin **1.55** Jean Daetwyler (Alphorn Concerto No 1 **2.15** Schein (Diletti pastorali (excerpts) **2.35** Weber (Grand duo concertant, Op 8 **3.00** Schools: Time and Tune **3.20** Together **3.40** Dance Workshop **4.00** The Song Tree **4.20** Scottish Resources 10-12 **5.00** Bruhns (De profundis **5.10** Lukas Foss (Percussion Concerto **5.40** Trad Canadian, arr Beckwith (The Banks of Newfoundland; Farewell to Nova Scotia **5.50** Frano Parac (Pastorale)

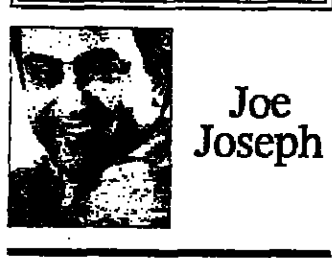
RADIO 4

5.30am World News **5.35 Shipping Forecast**
5.40 Inshore Forecast **5.45 Prayer for the Day**
5.47 Farming Today Rural issues, with Ashley Gething
6.00 Today with James Naughtie and John Humphrys
8.35 (LW) Yesterday in Parliament Round up of political developments
9.00 Midweek The *Times* columnist Libby Purves plays host to lively conversationalists
9.45 (LW) Daily Service
9.45 (FM) Serial: Radio 4 at The Word A new work by the Nobel prize-winning Nigerian author Wole Soyinka (3/5)
10.00 Woman's Hour with Jenni Murray and guests
11.00 Southall Stories In the first of two programmes, Naresh Puri finds out how Asian settlers have transformed the Middlesex town of Southall (1/2)
11.30 Our Man at Wembley Comedy set in 1947, by Bill Matthews. Is Eric in danger of over-exposure? Alistair McGowan and Jon Glover star (3/4) (r)
12.00 (LW) News Headlines; Shipping Forecast
12.00 (FM) News 12.04pm You and Yours Consumer news and investigations, presented by Mark Whittaker and Trixie Rawlinson
1.00 The World at One with Nick Clarke
1.30 Inspiration! Adam Hart-Davis, Johnny Ball, Len Fisher and Kevin Warwick join Chris Stuart to explore the world of innovations, discoveries and inventions
2.00 The Archers Yesterday's edition (r)
2.15 Afternoon Play: A White Velvet Nightcap in Florida Stephen Mollet's play based on the letters of the Hungarian writer Tibor Dery. With John Rowe and Tracy-Ann Oberman
3.00 Gardeners' Question Time (r)
3.30 The New Recruit The changing times as witnessed by two florists (3/5) (r)
3.45 This Sceptred Isle Anna Massey narrates part 58 of the history of Britain (r)
4.00 Four Walls Jonathan Glancey explores how architects and designers created centres of entertainment from Rome's Colosseum to the Royal Court Theatre of today (2/4)
4.30 Thinking Allowed Laurie Taylor and guests think the unthinkable about society
5.00 PM with Chris Lowe and Clare English
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 Ballylenon The community prepares for a revelation. Last in series, starring Christopher Fitz-Simon's comedy drama, starring T.P. McKenna and Margaret D'Arcy (6/6) (r)
7.00 The Archers
7.15 Front Row Mark Lawson presents a special edition from the first London Festival of Literature
7.45 The Cry of the Bittern Part 28. Broadcast earlier as part of *Woman's Hour* (r)
8.00 The Moral Maze Michael Buerk presents ethical debate, with Janet Daley, Ian Hargreaves, David Cook and David Starkey
8.45 Lent Talks The actress Imogen Stubbs offers her view of Easter
9.00 Under Pressure The scientist John Pyle's quest to discover the causes of ozone depletion
9.30 Midweek Broadcast earlier (r)
10.00 The World Tonight
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Radio 4 at The Word — Furniture Written by Michael Moorcock. Read by Maggie Steed.
11.00 Late Night on 4: Old Harry's Game New series of Andy Hamilton's award-winning comedy, set in Hell. See Choice (1/6)
11.30 (FM) Mammon (6/6) (r)
11.30 (LW) Today in Parliament Political update
12.00 News 12.30am The Late Book: Raymond Carver Short Stories A traveling salesman has a chance encounter with his father (r)
12.48 Shipping Forecast **1.00 As World Service**

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 693, 909. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO. MW 1053, 1089.
Television and radio listings compiled by Perry Cleveland-Peck, Ian Hughes, Gillian Maxey, Jane Gregory and Barry O'Keefe

The Catcher caught by wry camerawork

REVIEW



Joe Joseph

Just as the banker will lend money most readily to the person who can demonstrate that he needs it the least, so fame often lands most stubbornly on the shoulders of those who want nothing to do with it.

"This," said the narrator of *J.D. Salinger Doesn't Want to Talk* (BBC2), as we squinted at some recent, unauthorised footage of the author, "is one of the world's most famous recluses." How odd to be famous because you're a recluse. Today the only way of trumping the fame of those who ache to be famous is, paradoxically, to spurn fame. John Cage liked to say: "I'm saying nothing, and I'm saying it." In a similar way, the man who has barely said a word in public in the half century since publishing *The Catcher In the Rye* doesn't want to be famous, and he's famous for it.

Shunning celebrity is incomprehensible to many people in a celebrity-obsessed culture. In an age when someone like Maureen Rees, who found stardom from driving badly in *Driving School*, can now charge for appearances, then Salinger's rejection of fame makes him a freak.

Staking him out in his home in Cornish, New Hampshire, becomes a little like visiting the loonies in Bedlam.

"This unique footage of the writer has never been seen before," said the narrator as we peered, slightly guiltily, at a man shambling down the street, unaware that he was in the crosshairs of a stalker's camera. It was sunny. Salinger was wearing a blue shirt under one of those sleeveless beige jackets anglers wear, the ones covered in useful pockets for bait and hooks and egg sandwiches. His hair was so white it looked like icing. He reminded you of Jason Robards. An 80-year-old man just minding his own business.

Sarah Aspinall, who produced and directed this film for BBC2's *Close Up*, was alert to the ethical dilemma of invading the author's privacy. So it wasn't she who filmed this sequence; but she did pay to use it. To beat us to it, the narrator asks right at the start: "Why has Salinger tried to deny readers any knowledge of who he was? And do we have the right to try and find out more?"

Well, I don't know if we have the right, but certainly we have the appetite. I feel slightly ashamed to say that yes, I would like to know more. I also feel relieved that — interesting as this documentary was, embroidered with interviews with old friends, neighbours, lovers — it never managed to get very far past the perimeter fence of Salinger's life. It was the relief you feel when temptation is snatched away just seconds before your weak will was about to succumb and lead you into something you might later blush to recall.

Her resolve not to stalk Salinger herself makes you wonder if maybe Aspinall, too, was relieved that she'd unearthed little that might brand her a Peeping Tom. She was able to produce 50 minutes of bewitching documentary and still go home with a clear conscience. Her film also helped us to clarify our thoughts on what claims we have on an artist who is no longer seeking our custom for his books. Actually, we have none.

Glenn Hoddle, unlike Salinger, has decided it's good to talk. Roger Mills's film for Channel 4, *Hoddle and the Healer*, gave him an unchallenged opportunity to put his case.

Unfortunately he was mostly defending himself against accusations that weren't the pivotal ones levelled against him. This was presumably the price Mills had to pay for Hoddle's co-operation.

So, much of the programme was devoted to defending spiritual healers, such as Eileen Drewery, and citing evidence of the wonders they worked on apparently incurable injuries. Since healing could be seen to work, ran the thesis, it must follow that Hoddle was hounded out of his job as England coach unfairly.

"Hoddle's faith in healing would soon land him in deep trouble," intoned the narrator.

But hang on. Hoddle didn't get into hot water because he employed a healer (which many British team coaches use), or else he would have been sacked as England coach even before the World Cup. Hoddle got into hot water because he has unconventional views about the way reincarnation works — in particular a belief that those who are afflicted in this life are being punished for evils they have committed in a past life. (Even Eileen's husband told us that, after seeing the disembowelling performed at the end of the film *Braveheart*, he wondered whether his own colostomy was punishment for his employment as an executioner in a previous life).

England's World Cup defeat was apparently the turning point.

"The press," said the narrator, "now had the chance to use Glenn's beliefs against him." But if that was the case, why didn't they conspire to get him sacked last summer? Why was the fury at the time directed at David Beckham's petulance rather than at Hoddle?

No, what probably cost Hoddle his job was not his use of healers, but his defects as a coach: his betrayal of confidentiality over Gazza's outburst on being told he wouldn't be going to France; and his failure to practise penalty-taking before a tournament where penalty shootouts frequently decide matches.

His belief that disabled people were paying for sins from a previous life may have been the trigger, but both barrels were already loaded and ready to fire. Hoddle, like Gerald Ratner, has learnt what Salinger has known for decades: get on with what you do best and keep your trap shut. It's what all the smart people do.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (78144)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (30811)
9.00 Kilroy (T) (2299095)
9.45 Style Challenge (5494340)
10.10 The Vanessa Show (T) (7188434)
10.55 News; Weather (T) (3731521)
11.00 Change That (3758298)
11.25 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (T) (3728057)
11.55 News; Weather (T) (7606095)
12.00 Call My Bluff (92502)
12.30pm Wipeout (4272453)
12.55 The Weather Show (T) (53316453)
1.00 One O'Clock News (T) (40298)
1.30 Regional News; Weather (59245328)
1.40 Neighbours (T) (35385786)
2.05 Ironside (r) (5599231)
2.55 Through the Keyhole (r) (T) (9819386)
3.25 Children's BBC: Playdays (6142328) **3.45** Little Monsters (5706927) **3.50** ChuckleVision (4130873) **4.10** See It, Saw It (5172182) **4.35** The Wild House (3718231) **5.00** Newsround (4481057) **5.10** Blue Peter (9178144)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (920786)
6.00 Six O'Clock News; Weather (T) (347)
6.30 Regional News Magazine (927)
7.00 Holiday on a Shoestring (T) (2724)
7.30 Tomorrow's World (T) (811)
8.00 Changing Rooms (r) (T) (676434)
8.25 Holiday Reps Get Married Catching up on events since last season (T) (938786)
8.50 The National Lottery: Greatest Hits with Angela Griffin (T) (180347)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News; Regional News; Weather (T) (5415)
9.29 National Lottery Update (654873)
9.30 Jasper Carrott: Back to the Front More stand-up comedy (5/6) (T) (30250)



A scene from the classic sitcom *Steptoe and Son* (10pm)

10.00 Laughter in the House: The Story of British Sitcom The origins of the British sitcom (T); Casualty 250: The Viewers' Choice (415724)
10.55 Film 99 with Jonathan Ross Jonathan Ross hosts a new series of the BBC's flagship movie programme (T) (987540)
11.25 The Lion's Den The difficulties of managing the England football team (T) (304434)
11.55 World Figure Skating (938499)
12.35am The River Rat (1984) An ex-convict returns home to his daughter after 13 years in jail for a crime he didn't commit. Drama, with Tommy Lee Jones. Directed by Tom Rickman (T) (9523583)
2.00 Weather (9395632)
2.05 BBC News 24 (95363038)

10.55 The Slate (987540) **11.25 Film 99 with Jonathan Ross** (T) (304434) **11.55 The Lion's Den** (T) (173786) **12.25am World Figure Skating** (9537729) **1.05 FILM: The River Rat** (T) (8456090) **2.30 Weather** (5039922) **2.35-6.00 BBC News 24** (49638651)

BBC2

7.00am Children's BBC Breakfast Show: Pingu (7117076) **7.05** Teletubbies (8439795) **7.30** Inch High Private Eye (3194540) **7.55** The Really Wild Show (8072076) **8.18** Rewind (3511231) **8.20** Goober and the Ghost Chasers (5768250) **8.40** Polka Dot Shorts (1723298) **8.50** Pingu (1712182) **9.00** Environment (7341298) **9.10** What? Where? When? Why? (7321434) **9.25** The Art (4089724) **9.45** Words and Pictures (8450434) **10.00** Teletubbies (94521) **10.30** Numbertime (9902908) **10.45** Watch (9990163) **11.00** Around Scotland (3928908) **11.20** The Geography Programme (3875908) **11.40** Science in Action (6256989) **12.00** Revista (5964250) **12.15pm** Hallo aus Berlin (4791892) **12.30** Working Lunch (25328)
1.00 Children's BBC: Brum (68642328)
1.10 The Edge Tom Patey (r) (T) (41473724)
1.40 Hart-Davis on History (35306279)
2.10 Sporting Greats (56166328)
2.40 News; Weather (T) (3910618)
2.45 Westminster (T) (5685705)
3.50 News; Weather (T) (6862705)
3.55 Kaye (9195095)
4.25 Ready, Steady, Cook (T) (6874540)
4.55 Esther Studio debate (r) (T) (2756182)
5.25 Whose House? (9104569)
5.50 Lifeline The Environmental Investigation Agency (T) (529347)
6.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation A transporter malfunction turns Geordi and Ensign Ro invisible (r) (T) (859076)
6.45 World Figure Skating Sue Barker introduces coverage of the pairs and men's short programmes (260453)
7.30 Sophie Grigson's Herbs The creative cook prepares sorrel and cucumber soup and a peppery sauce for pasta (T) (453)
8.00 University Challenge Oriel College, Oxford v Leicester University (T) (6786)
8.30 Looking Good Angela Buttolph reports on what's in and what's not in Los Angeles (T) (8521)



The former politician Derek Hatton takes to the airwaves (9pm)

9.00 Trouble at the Top The broadcaster John Myers prepares to launch a new commercial radio station in Manchester (T) (256076)
9.40 The Lost Race Documentary examining the demise of the National Front organisation (T) (903279)
10.30 Newsnight (T) (648250)
11.15 Young Musicians (799618)
11.55 Weather (971540)
12.00 Despatch Box Crooks (62651)
12.30am BBC Learning Zone: Open University: Good Seeing **1.00** Cosmic Recycling **1.30** Venus Unveiled **2.00** Schools: — Christianity in Today's World/The RE Collection **4.00** Make German Your Business **5.00** Business and Training: RCN Nursing Update **5.45** Open University: Biological Barriers **6.10** Building in Cells **6.35** A Tale of Two Cells

HTV

5.30am ITV Morning News (14434)
6.00 GMTV (5453453)
9.25 Trisha (T) (8685182)
10.30 This Morning (T) (44207076)
12.15pm HTV News (T) (4795618)
12.30 ITV Lunchtime News (T) (4267521)
12.55 Shortland Street Chris worries about Tiffany (9694231)
1.30 Home and Away Tiegan plans to leave (T) (35314298)
1.55 The Jerry Springer Show Outrageous American talk show (T) (9686142)
2.40 Wheel of Fortune (T) (7914750)
3.10 ITV News Headlines (T) (4439415)
3.15 HTV News (T) (4438786)
3.20 CITV: Mopatop's Shop (4459279) **3.30** Teddybears (9402892) **3.40** Jumanji (9170786) **4.05** Hey Arnold! (6855415) **4.35** Wildtrack (3744927)
5.00 Home and Away (r) (T) (4328)
5.30 Live and Local Richard Wyatt and Polly Lloyd present the news roadshow from Longleat (502)
5.30 WALES: Up Beat With the rising actress Nia Roberts (T) (502)
6.00 HTV News (T) (415)
6.26 HTV Crimestoppers (158908)
6.30 ITV Evening News; Weather (T) (845)
7.00 Emmerdale Mandy starts making plans (T) (7892)
7.30 Coronation Street Curly plays Jackie at her own game (T) (279)
8.00 Deadly Rattlesnakes with Steve Irwin The wildlife film-maker travels from California to the Everglades in search of America's most feared snakes (T) (8231)



Michelle Pfeiffer stars as a US Marine-turned-teacher (9pm)

9.00 Dangerous Minds (1995) Premiere. A US Marine leaves military life behind and becomes a teacher, but faces a struggle to earn her pupils' respect in the tough inner-city school where she is assigned to teach a class of no-hopers. Drama, starring Michelle Pfeiffer, George Dzundza and Courtney B. Vance. Directed by John Smith (T) (41476724)
10.55 ITV Nightly News; Weather (T) (242989)
11.15 HTV News and Weather (T) (550786)
11.25 Greyhounds (TVM 1993) Three ageing former policemen return to duty to crack San Diego's toughest cases. Comedy adventure, starring Dennis Weaver and Robert Guillaume. Directed by Kim Manners (321502)
1.10am Sunset Beat (1990) George Clooney stars in this adventure about a group of crime-fighters tackling an extortionist. Directed by Sam Weisman (943421)
2.55 Trisha Shown earlier (r) (T) (9860545)
4.00 The Making of The Siege Behind the scenes of the blockbuster (41272106)
4.25 Soundtrax (41284941)
4.50 ITV Nightscreen Behind the scenes of ITV programmes (43698293)
5.00 Coronation Street (r) (T) (64670)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:
12.20-12.30pm Central News; Weather (7933786)
12.55 Home and Away (4275540)
1.25 The Jerry Springer Show (4847434)
2.10-2.40 Echo Point (56186182)
3.15-3.20 Central News; Weather (4438786)
5.30 Shortland Street (502)
6.00-6.30 Central News at Six; Weather (415)
11.15-11.25 Central News; Weather (550786)
4.00am Central Jobfinder '99 (8529125)
5.20-5.30 Asian Eye (3073670)

As HTV West except:
12.15pm Westcountry News (4795618)
12.27-12.30 Illuminations (7941705)
12.55-1.25 Westcountry Lunchtime Live (4275540)
1.25 The Jerry Springer Show (4847434)
2.10-2.40 Home and Away (56186182)
3.15-3.20 Westcountry News; Weather (4438786)
4.58-5.00 Birthday People (7544637)
5.30 Peter Gorton for Starters (502)
6.00-6.30 Westcountry Live; Weather (415)
11.15-11.25 Westcountry News; Weather (550786)

As HTV West except: **12.15pm-12.30 Meridian News;** Weather (4795618) **5.30 Country Vets** (6/6) (r) (502) **6.00-6.30 Meridian Tonight** (T) (415) **7.29-7.30 Meridian Weather** (278521) **11.15-11.25 Meridian News;** Weather (T) (550786) **5.00am-5.30 Freescreen** (T) (64670)

As HTV West except: **12.19pm Anglia Air Watch** (7945521) **12.20-12.30 Anglia News and Weather** (7933786) **5.30-6.00 Whipsnade** (9/13) (T) (502) **6.00-6.30 Anglia News** (T) (415) **11.14 Anglia Air Watch** (183163) **11.15-11.25 Anglia News and Weather** (T) (550786)

Starts: **6.00am Sesame Street** (r) (88575328) **7.00 The Big Breakfast** (67528057) **9.00 Ysgolion: The Mix** (97779569) **9.30 Rat-A-Tat-Tat** (74709453) **9.45 Book Box** (74704908) **10.00 Stage Two Science** (91552892) **10.15 All About Us** (91542415) **10.30 The French Programme** (51270076) **10.50 Stop, Look, Listen** (87963255) **11.00 Yr Amgylchedd** (15615724) **11.15 Tackling Technology** (15605347) **11.30 Powerhouse** (T) (68970637) **12.00 Bewitched** (T) (97759705) **12.30pm Sesame Street** (T) (26577250) **1.00 Planed Plant** (T) (67521144) **1.30 Travelog Treks** (T) (54425095) **1.45 FILM: The October Man** (T) (50639347) **3.30 Collectors' Lot** (T) (67854328) **4.00 Fifteen-to-One** (T) (67866163) **4.30 Ricki Lake** (T) (67862347) **5.00 Planed Plant** (T) (90847873) **5.30 Countdown** (T) (67886927) **6.00 Newyddion 6** (T) (93195960) **6.10 Heno** (T) (86685163) **7.00 Pobol y Cwm** (T) (90867637) **7.30 Newyddion** (T) (67863076) **8.00 Ffermio** (T) (90843057) **8.30 Hawlio** (T) (90855892) **9.00 ER** (T) (37014298) **10.00 Brookside** (T) (72312250) **10.35 Sex and the City** (T) (35417453) **11.05 The 11 O'Clock Show** (88123250) **11.35 Michael Moore: The Awful Truth** (T) (41754434) **12.10am The Spying Game** (T) (69984699) **12.45 British Rally Championship** (51578380) **1.15 Football Italia: Mezzanotte** (30315125) **3.35 Trans World Sport** (50220748) **4.30 Diwedd**

CHANNEL 4

6.00am Sesame Street (r) (94182)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (23521)
9.00 Schools: The Mix (80796) **9.30** Rat-A-Tat-Tat (8457347) **9.45** Book Box (8445502) **10.00** Stage Two Science (9652540) **10.15** All About Us (9642163) **10.30** Channel Hopping (1206786) **10.50** Stop, Look, Listen (8576057) **11.00** First Edition VI (3859960) **11.15** Tackling Technology (3872811)
11.30 Powerhouse (T) (9618)
12.00 Sesame Street (T) (18540)
12.30pm Bewitched (r) (T) (43724)
1.00 Pet Rescue (T) (33908)
1.30 Collectors' Lot (T) (90875786)
1.35 The Three Stooges (T) (83278124)
1.55 The Blind Goddess (1947) Vintage drama about an aristocrat who sues his secretary for accusing him of embezzling public funds — even though he's guilty as charged. Eric Portman stars. Directed by Harold French (T) (75904366)
3.30 Collectors' Lot A look at traditional Welsh love spoons (T) (873)
4.00 Fifteen-to-One (T) (908)
4.30 Countdown (T) (3743298)
4.55 Ricki Lake (T) (5851989)
5.30 Pet Rescue (T) (144)
6.00 Dawson's Creek A class assignment means Jen gets the chance to woo Dawson again (T) (868724)
6.50 T4orce Ben Shephard presents the entertainment update (641328)
7.00 Channel 4 News; Weather (T) (138415)
7.55 Farmed Out A report on a British tannery hit badly by the collapse of the Russian economy (T) (901665)
8.00 Brookside Rachel decides to put her trust in Mike (T) (4182)
8.30 Doors to Manual Three lucky groups of travellers win the chance to spend a weekend in the Moroccan capital of Marrakesh (4/6) (T) (8219)
9.00 ER Lucy and Carter battle to save a girl with a rare blood group in desperate need of a transfusion. Starring Alex Kingston, Juliana Margulies and Kellie Martin (T) (6637)
10.00 Sex and the City Carrie receives worrying news (T) (26569)
10.30 Michael Moore: The Awful Truth Offbeat reports from the US (T) (30219)



Satirical comedy with Ali Gee, the "voice of youth" (11pm)

11.00 The 11 O'Clock Show More up-to-the-minute satire with Iain Lee, Daisy Donavan and Ali Gee (T) (3298)
11.30 So Graham Norton With the *Times* columnist Anne Robinson (r) (T) (483124)
12.10am boardstupid goes skiing A telemark festival in Scotland (r) (9534632)
12.45 British Rally Championships Round one action from Wales (31309)
1.15 Football Italia: Mezzanotte Round-up of the week's action (33805458)
3.35 Trans World Sport (r) (9972941)
4.30 Soviet Echoes (r) (84800)

CHANNEL 5

6.00am 5 News and Sport With Becky Anderson (6056958)
7.00 WideWorld Part four. Homes with defences such as castles and towers (r) (T) (8627811)
7.30 Milkshake! (2159637)
7.35 Wimzie's House (r) (4138366)
8.00 Havakazoo (r) (2351989)
8.30 Dappledown Farm (r) (2343960)
9.00 Hot Property (r) (T) (1113647)
9.25 Russell Grant's Postcards (4910908)
9.30 The Oprah Winfrey Show (r) (2483827)
10.20 Sunset Beach Trey goes for a paternity test (T) (3190250)
11.10 Leeza (3612219)
12.00 5 News at Noon (T) (2354076)
12.30pm Family Affairs Josh starts a new venture (r) (T); 5 News Update (1732298)
1.00 The Bold and the Beautiful Stephanie is accused of lying (T) (8626182)
1.30 The Roseanne Show Outrageous chat and gossip with the bubbly comedian; 5 News Update (1731569)
2.00 100 Per Cent Gold (9610298)
2.30 Good Afternoon (1218786)
3.30 Deceptions (TVM 1985) Concluding part of the drama. Sabrina reveals her true identity in a bid to find out who killed her twin sister. Stefanie Powers stars. Directed by Robert Chenault/Melville Shavelson (T) (9948863)
5.20 5 News (90795417)
5.30 100 Per Cent (r) (2957366)
6.00 5 News; Weather Round-up of the day's stories, including First on Five (2954279)
6.30 Family Affairs Gabby finds out about Pete's shady past (T) (2938231)
7.00 Knight Rider Michael is assigned to protect an endangered female politician whose unorthodox views have gained her some powerful enemies. David Hasselhoff stars as the crime-busting motorist (r) (9681786)
7.30 Nature of Oz Wildlife film-makers venture into the territory of the Australian golfer, in search of creatures inhabiting the country's greens and fairways (T); 5 News Update (2934415)
8.00 My Titanic Tragic disasters, from the Tube fire at King's Cross station in 1987 to a supposedly dream cruise which turned into a nightmare (T) (8045705)
9.00 Appointment for a Killing (TVM 1993) A woman discovers that her adulterous husband has become a murderer, and decides it's high time that she brought him to justice. Thriller, with Kelsey Grammer, Markie Post, Corbin Bernsen and Don Swayze. Directed by William A. Graham (T) (81702453)
10.50 Melinda's Big Night In Des'ree and Brendan Fraser drop in for a chat (1294144)
11.30 UK Raw A look an Iraqi transsexual's bid to take control of a football team (6/10) (5762521)
12.00 Live NHL Ice Hockey New York Rangers at Florida Panthers. Full coverage of the vital Eastern Conference clash (66227903)
4.40am The Movie Chart Show The latest film news (r) (92780941)
5.05 Move On Up (r) (32502293)
5.30 100 Per Cent (r) (8319545)

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SATELLITE, CABLE AND DIGITAL

● **For further listings see Saturday's *Vision***

SKY ONE

7.00am Count Duckula (87989) **7.30** The Chris Evans Breakfast Show (60618) **8.30** Hollywood Squares (30788) **9.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (40873) **10.00** The Oprah Winfrey Show (75908) **11.00** Guilty! (55144) **12.00** Jenny Jones (71521) **1.00pm** Mad About You (59960) **1.30** Jeopardy (68057) **2.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (53298) **3.00** Jenny Jones (86986) **4.00** Guilty! (98724) **5.00** Star Trek: Voyager (3095) **6.00** America's Dumbest Criminals (7927) **6.30** Friends (8279) **7.00** The Simpsons (4724) **7.30** The Simpsons (7163) **8.00** Mortal Kombat: Conquest (23908) **9.00** The X Files (77704) **10.00** Miami Uncovered (58601) **11.00** Friends (99453) **11.30** Star Trek: Voyager (45540) **12.30am** The Commish (62390) **1.30** Long Play (8828423)

SKY BOX OFFICE

Sky's pay-per-view movie channels. To view any film telephone 0990 800888
SKY BOX OFFICE 1 (Transponder 51) **How to be a Player** (1997)
SKY BOX OFFICE 2 (Transponder 60) **Gattaca** (1997)
SKY BOX OFFICE 3 (Transponder 59) **Jackie Brown** (1997)
SKY BOX OFFICE 4 (Transponder 58) **Kiss the Girls** (1998)

SKY PREMIER

6.00am The Tin Soldier (1995) (82057) **8.00 Larger Than Life** (1996) (35892) **10.00 Speed 2: Cruise Control** (1997) (45057163) **12.05 Jilters** (1997) (194182) **2.00 The Man Who Captured Eichmann** (1996) (28453) **4.00 The Tin Soldier** (1995) (84570724) **5.55 Larger Than Life** (1996) (63794250) **7.30** The Barry Norman Interview: Richard Attenborough — Both Sides of the Camera (4683) **8.00 Speed 2: Cruise Control** (1997) (10434) **10.00 Conspiracy Theory** (1997) (85906095) **12.20am Backdraft** (1991) (92122038) **2.40 Mistrial** (1996) (814038) **4.15 The Man Who Captured Eichmann** (1996) (792835)

SKY MOVIEMAX

5.25am They Won't Believe Me (1947) (64185540) **7.00** Movie Magic: Twist and Shout (62057) **7.30** Femmes Fatales: Meg Ryan (1101162) **8.15** Action Heroes: Sean Connery (2826960) **9.00 Emma** (1996) (24786) **11.00 Vanishing Point** (1996) (24908) **1.00** Movie Magic: Twist and Shout (51328) **1.30** Femmes Fatales: Meg Ryan (5289724) **2.15** Action Heroes: Sean Connery (7324415) **3.00 Emma** (1996) (23328) **5.00 Goddess of Love** (TVM 1988) (40163) **7.00 Vanishing Point** (1996) (18453) **8.30** E! News Week in Review (4347) **9.00 Tempting Fate** (1998) (11163) **11.00 Fear** (1990) (254366) **12.35am Good Guys Wear Black** (1979) (331125) **2.10 Broken English** (1996) (719816) **3.45 Termination Man** (1997) (722941)

SKY CINEMA

4.00pm Diplomatic Courier (1952) (7734279) **6.00 None But the Lonely Heart** (1944) (2137328) **8.00 Rebel Without a Cause** (1955) (2132873) **10.00 Hang 'Em High** (1968) (4854583) **11.55 Under the Volcano** (1984) (4436434) **1.50am The Magus** (1968) (2889699) **3.50 On Dangerous Ground** (1951) (82679293)

FILMFOUR

6.00pm Nelly and M Arnaud (1995) (4752502) **8.00 Kes** (1970) (63310415) **9.55 Ran** (1985) (85285989) **12.35am Bonfire of the Vanities** (1990) (60358293) **2.40 Angels and Insects** (1995) (2024449) **4.35** Typically British (7821962) **6.00** Close

TNT

9.00pm Alex in Wonderland (1970) (53964347) **11.15 The Power** (1968) (74888569) **1.15am Ring of Fire** (1961) (45070832) **3.00 Alex in Wonderland** (1970) (17836670) **5.00** Close

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am Sports Centre **7.15** World Wrestling Federation: Live Wire **8.15** You're On Sky Sports! **9.00** Racing News **9.30** Aerobics Oz Style **10.00** Golf **11.00** Rugby League Academy **12.00** Aerobics Oz Style **12.30pm** Premier Snooker League **2.30** Fastrax **3.00** Inside Scottish Football **4.00** Boxing Superbouts **5.00** World Wrestling Federation: Shotgun **6.00** Sports Centre **6.30** World Pool League **7.30** Live Football **10.00** Sports Centre **10.15** You're On Sky Sports! **11.00** World Pool League **12.00** Sports Centre **12.15am** You're On Sky Sports! **1.00** Football **3.00** Rugby League World **4.30** Sports Centre **4.45** Close

SKY SPORTS 2

7.00am Aerobics Oz Style **7.30** Sports Centre **7.45** Racing News **8.15** Fastrax **8.45** Sports Centre **9.00** Fish TV **10.00** Inside Scottish Football **11.00** Women's Golf **1.00** Golf Extra **4.00** Premier Snooker League **6.00** Watersports World **7.00** Golf Extra **10.00** European Tour Golf Weekly **10.30** Watersports World **11.30** Australian Rally Championship **12.00** Ringside **1.30am** World Pool League **2.30** Sports Centre **2.45** Close

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00am World Wrestling Federation: Shotgun **1.00pm** Fish TV **2.00** Tales from the Premiership **2.30** Boxing Superbouts **3.30** V-Max **4.00** Women's Golf **6.00** European Tour Golf Weekly **6.30** Unbelievable Sports **7.00** Rugby League World **8.30** Ringside **10.00** FA Cup Final Classics **11.30** Close

EUROSPORT

7.30am Rally **8.00** Figure Skating **9.30** Ski-Jumping **11.00** Rally **11.30** Motocross **12.00** Tennis **12.30pm** US Golf **1.30** Live Figure Skating **4.30** Tennis **5.30** Live Figure Skating **9.15** Tennis **10.00** Women's Tennis **11.30** Rally **12.00** Motocross

UK GOLD

7.00am Crossroads **7.30** Neighbours **7.55** EastEnders **8.30** The Bill **9.00** The Bill **9.30** Pride and Prejudice **10.30** Rhoda **11.00** Dallas **11.55** Neighbours **12.25pm** EastEnders **1.00** Bugs **2.00** Dallas **2.55** The Bill **3.25** The Bill **3.55** EastEnders **4.30** Rhoda **5.00** All Creatures Great and Small **6.00** Dynasty **7.00** Ever Decreasing Circles **7.40** Dad's Army **8.20** The Brittas Empire **9.00** One Foot in the Grave **9.40** Catherine Cookson's The Man Who Cried **11.20** The Bill **11.55** The Bill **12.25am** Silent Witness **2.10** Best of the Old Grey Whistle Test **2.25** Shopping with Screenshop

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am Whatever Happened to... These Walls **7.00** Holding the Fort **7.30** The Odd Couple **8.00** Families **8.30** Mind Your Language **9.00** Classic Coronation Street **9.30** Emmerdale Farm **10.00** Upstairs, Downstairs **11.00** The Gentle Touch **12.00** Classic Coronation Street **12.30pm** Emmerdale Farm **1.00** Mind Your Language **1.30** Me and My Girl **2.00** Upstairs, Downstairs **3.00** The Love Boat **4.00** The Professionals **5.00** Hart to Hart **6.00** Emmerdale Farm **6.30** Classic Coronation Street **7.00** The Professionals **8.00** Benny Hill Show **9.00** The Sweeney **10.00** Hale and Pace **10.30** Wheeltappers and Shunters' Social Club **11.00** Close



Robert De Niro and Samuel L. Jackson star in Quentin Tarantino's darkly comic thriller *Jackie Brown* (Sky Box Office 3)

CARLTON SELECT

5.00pm What's Cooking? **5.30** Gridlock **6.00** My Two Wives **6.30** Our House **7.00** Shine On, Harvey Moon **8.00** Once in a Lifetime **8.30** Superchefs **9.00** Head Over Heels **10.00** Pie in the Sky **11.00** Hill Street Blues **12.00** My Two Wives **12.30am** Gridlock **1.00** Close

DISNEY CHANNEL

6.00am Gummi Bears **6.25** Classic Toons **6.35** Tale Spin **7.00** Classic Toons **7.10** Aladdin **7.35** 101 Dalmatians **8.00** Goof Troop **8.25** Classic Toons **8.45** New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh **9.00** The Adventures of Spot **9.05** Animal Shelf **9.15** Pocket Dragons **9.30** Bear in the Big Blue House **9.55** The Toothbrush Family **10.00** Bite Size **10.10** Rosie and Jim **10.30** The Big Garage **10.45** PB and J Otter **11.00** Sesame Street **12.00** The Adventures of Spot **12.05pm** Animal Shelf **12.15** Pocket Dragons **12.30** Bear in the Big Blue House **12.55** The Toothbrush Family **1.00** Bite Size **1.10** Rosie and Jim **1.30** The Big Garage **1.45** PB and J Otter **2.00** New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh **2.30** Quack Pack **3.00** The Little Mermaid **3.30** Art Attack **4.00** 101 Dalmatians **4.30** Hercules: The TV Show **5.00** Recess **5.15** Pepper Ann **5.30** Smart Guy **6.00** Teen Angel **6.30** Boy Meets World **7.00 FILM: Mr Headmistress** (TVM 1998) **8.30** Honey I Shrunk the Kids: The TV Show **9.15** Dinosaurs **10.00** Home Improvement **10.30** The Wonder Years **11.00** Touched by an Angel **12.00** Close

FOX KIDS NETWORK

6.00am Adventures of Dodo **6.05** Power Rangers Turbo **6.30** Power Rangers Turbo **6.55** Spiderman **7.25** Oggy and the Cockroaches **7.30** Donkey Kong Country **8.00** Hero Turtles: The Next Mutation **8.25** The Incredible Hulk **8.50** Iron Man **9.15** Fantastic Four **9.40** X-Men **10.05** Casper **10.30** Oggy and the Cockroaches **10.55** EekIStravaganza **11.05** Bobby's World **11.30** Life with Louie **11.55** Home to Rent **12.05pm** Dennis and Gnasher **12.30** Donkey Kong Country **1.00** Mowgli: The New Adventures of Jungle Book **1.25** Ace Ventura **1.55** The Incredible Hulk **2.20** Iron Man **2.45** Fantastic Four **3.10** X-Men **3.30** X-Press **3.35** Spiderman **4.00** Goosebumps **4.25** Hero Turtles: The Next Mutation **4.50** Casper **5.00** Dennis and Gnasher **5.30** Ace Ventura **6.00** Donkey Kong Country **6.30** EekIStravaganza **6.55** Oggy and the Cockroaches **7.00** Close

NICKELODEON

6.00am Rocko's Modern Life **6.30** Bruno the Kid **7.00** CatDog **7.30** Rugrats **8.00** The Wild Thornberrys **8.30** Arthur **9.00** Children's BBC **10.00** Wimzie's House **10.30** Papa Beaver Stories **11.00** The Magic School Bus **11.30** PB Bear/Budgie the Little Helicopter/Animal Antics/Family Ness **12.00** Rugrats **12.30pm** Blue's Clues **1.00** Bananas in Pyjamas **1.30** Little Bear Stories **2.00** Paddington Bear/Lizzie's Library/Portland Bill/Mr Men **2.30** Children's BBC **3.00** Children's BBC **3.30** Doug **4.00** Three Friends and Jerry **4.30** Rugrats **5.00** Sister Sister **5.30** Kenan and Kel **6.00** Renford Rejects **6.30** Moesha **7.00** Close

BRAVO

8.00pm Martial Law **9.00** Extreme Championship Wrestling **9.30** Cops **10.00** The Late Lounge **10.30** Erotic Confessions **11.00 FILM: Jack's Back** (1988) **1.00am** Erotic Confessions **1.30** The Late Lounge **2.00** Martial Law **3.00 FILM: Scissors** (1991) **5.00** Extreme Championship Wrestling **5.30** Cops **6.00** Close

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm Jenny **7.30** Grace Under Fire **8.00** Ellen **8.30** Spin City **9.00** Drop the Dead Donkey **9.30** Whose Line Is It Anyway? **10.00** Frasier **10.30** Cheers **11.00** Seinfeld **11.30** The Larry Sanders Show **12.00** Late Night with David Letterman **1.00am** Taxi **1.30** Frontline **2.00** Dr Katz **2.30** Fibs and Fibs **3.00** Nighstand **3.30** Abbott and Costello **4.00** Close

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

SATELLITE: 5pm-MIDNIGHT ONLY

7.30am Bloomberg Information Television **8.00** Sightings **9.00** Battlestar Galactica **10.00** Quantum Leap **11.00** Dark Shadows **11.30** The Ray Bradbury Theatre **12.00** The Twilight Zone **1.00pm** Tales of the Unexpected **1.30** Tales of the Unexpected **2.00** Amazing Stories **2.30** Mysteries, Magic and Miracles **3.00** Battlestar Galactica **4.00** The Incredible Hulk **5.00** Sightings **6.00** Time Trax **7.00** Quantum Leap **8.00** VR.5 **9.00** Lexx **10.00 FILM: Ghostbusters II** (1994) **12.00** PSI Factor: Chronicles of the Paranormal **1.00am FILM: Sleeping Dogs** (1997) **3.00** Dark Shadows **3.30** Dark Shadows **4.00** Close

HOME & LEISURE

6.00am Today's Gourmet **6.30** Yan Can Cook. The Best of Asia **7.00** Homemaker **7.30** Period Rooms **8.00** Wedding Story **8.30** A Baby Story **9.00** Simply Painting **9.30** The Great Gardening Plot **10.00** Instant Gardens **10.30** Two's Country Cooking **11.00** The Dicemen **11.25** The Home and Leisure House **11.30** Rex Hunt Fishing Adventures **12.00** Our House Down Under **12.30pm** Antiques Trail **1.00** Our House **1.30** Home Savvy **2.00** New Yankee Workshop **2.30** Home Again with Bob Vila **3.00** This Old House with Steve and Norm **3.30** Charlie West Fishing

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Rex Hunt Fishing Adventures **4.30** The Car Show **5.00** Hitler-Stalin Dangerous Liaisons **6.00** Wildlife SOS **6.30** Untamed Africa **7.30** Futureworld **8.00** Arthur C Clarke's Mysterious World **8.30** Creatures Fantastic **9.00** Atlantis **10.00** The History of Writing **11.00** Forbidden Places **12.00** Mysteries of the Ancient Ones **1.00am** Hitler-Stalin Dangerous Liaisons **2.00** Close

ANIMAL PLANET

12.00am The New Adventures of Black Beauty **12.30pm** Hollywood Safari **1.30** Crocodile Hunter **2.00** All-Bird TV **2.30** Human/Nature **3.30** Harry's Practice **4.00** Jack Hanna's Zoo Life **4.30** Animal Doctor **5.00** Pet Rescue **5.30** Crocodile Hunter **6.00** The New Adventures of Black Beauty **6.30** Lassie **7.00** Rediscovery of the World **8.00** Animal Doctor **8.30** Horse Tales **9.00** Going Wild **9.30** Emergency Vets **10.00** Crocodile Hunter **10.30** Crocodile Hunter **11.00** Wildlife ER **11.30** Emergency Vets **12.00** Close

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

7.00pm New Fox in Town **7.30** Journey Through the Underworld **8.00** Survival of the Apes **9.00** The Art of the Warrior **10.00** Water Blasters **10.30** Rubbish Police **11.00** On the Edge: Survival on the Ice **12.00** Storm of the Century

HISTORY

4.00pm D-Day: Total Story Breakout **5.00** Classic Cars. Jeep **6.00** The Greatest Pharaohs. In the Image of God **7.00** Rockets. The Vengeance Weapon

CARLTON FOOD

9.00am Food Network Daily **9.30** Coxon's Kitchen College **10.00** From the Ground Up **10.30** First Taste **11.00** Worrall Thompson Cooks **11.30** Ideal Home Cooks **12.00** Food Network Daily **12.30pm** A Year at Ballymaloe **1.00** Coxon's Kitchen College **1.30** The Cookshop **2.00** Madhur's Indian Kitchen **2.30** Food Network Daily **3.00** Loyd's Louisiana **3.30** Ideal Home Cooks **4.00** Thoroughly Modern British **4.30** Chez Bruno **5.00** Close

LIVING

6.00am Tiny and Crew **6.20** 10 Plus 2 **6.40** Greedysaurus and the Gang **6.45** Philbert the Frog **6.50** Polka Dot Shorts **7.00** Practical Parenting **7.05** Professor Bubble **7.30** Caillou **7.35** Bug Alert **7.55** Practical Parenting **8.00** Barney and Friends **8.25** Babaloos **8.30** Tiny Tales **8.35** Tiny and Crew **8.50** Practical Parenting **9.00** Special Babies **9.30** The Roseanne Show **10.00** The Jerry Springer Show **10.50** Maury Povich **11.40** Brookside **12.10pm** Through the Keyhole **12.40** Rescue 911 **1.10** Beyond Belief: Fact or Fiction **1.40** Maury Povich **2.30** Special Babies **3.00** The Living Room **3.50** Michael Cole **4.40** Through the Keyhole **5.10** The Heat Is On **5.40** Ready, Steady, Cook **6.15** The Jerry Springer Show **7.05** Rescue 911 **7.35** Animal Rescue **8.00** LA Law **9.00** Too Good to be True (TVM 1988) **11.00** The Sex Files II **12.00** Close

ZEE TV

5.30am Hey Ho Ho **6.00** Out and About **6.30** Yoodle-Ae-Oo **7.00** Faith: Christian **7.30** News **8.00** India Business Report **8.30** Tara **9.00** Fashley The Love Stories **10.00** Sofia **11.00** Aashiana **11.30** Parampara **12.00 FILM: Film: Ek Gunnah Aur Sahi** **3.00pm** Zee Bangla **3.30** Hum Paanch **4.00** Akbar Birbal **4.30** Ek Minute **5.00** Jungle Book **5.30** Mausam **6.00** Top of the Tops **6.30** Banegi Apni Baat **7.00** Baat Ban Jaye **7.30** It's My Choice **8.00** News **8.30** Amanat **9.00** Urdu Drama **10.00** Ikke Pe Ikka **10.30** Woh **11.00** Purukshetra **12.00** News **12.30am** Yeh Hai Zindagi **1.00** Bangla TV **1.30** Panvartan **2.00 FILM: Film: Ram Rajya** **4.30** Narsayo



RACING 43

Gold Cup hero Go Ballistic out of National

SPORT

MOTOR RALLYING 46

Tenacious McRae holds on to lead in Portugal



WEDNESDAY MARCH 24 1999

Injury problems fail to dampen the enthusiasm of England coach

Keegan remains positive

By Oliver Holt
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

KEVIN KEEGAN was smiling, always *smiling*. Never mind the injury list, he said. Never mind that the centre of the England midfield has started to look like a dust bowl and the forward line has been cut down like Custer's cavalry on the Little Bighorn. The England coach kept on grinning.

He told an anecdote about one of his Fulham players observing that necessity was the mother of all evil. "He didn't get any marks for that," Keegan said. "Necessity is the mother of invention. You might think it is looking a bit thin but I see it in a different way."

By the end of it all, the Polish journalists who had come to the England hotel at Burnham Beeches expecting a sob story, a lament for the fading hopes of Michael Owen, were beginning to look rather downcast and Keegan was saying that he felt as excited as "a kid in a toy shop".

Keegan may not have taken charge of a competitive game yet, but he knows how to get his players in the right frame of mind for one. They have not kicked a ball but, so far, he has done everything as smoothly and as seamlessly as everyone imagined he would.

If his predecessor, Glenn Hoddle, could make a crisis out of a broken fingernail, Keegan breathed spirit into his squad by shrugging off the worries surrounding Owen, Chris Sutton, Darren Anderton and Robbie Fowler and insisting that one man's misfortune would be another's opportunity.

He said he would have no qualms about playing Tim Sherwood and Ray Parlour, who are untested at this level, in the make-or-break European championship qualifying tie against Poland on Saturday. We could expect thrills, and probably a few spills, he said, because he knew no other way. "This sort of injury thing has happened to other England managers," he said. "Why should I get away with it? I still think the squad is looking very, very good, in my true optimistic fashion.

"I look at any problem as an opportunity for somebody else. If Michael Owen does not play, it is an opportunity for somebody else. That is simply the way you have to look at it. I have got Andy Cole and Alan Shearer left and people are saying I am down to the bare bones. They are not bad bare bones.

"By Thursday, I will know exactly who is fit and I will be able to pick a fantastic England side from that. It could be an opportunity for someone that turns out to be the best thing to have happened in this country. We are not in a crisis here but we are not in an ideal world either."

The atmosphere at Keegan's first public training session at Bisham Abbey a few hours earlier had been predictably relaxed and light-hearted. Keegan joined in the practice match, but unlike Hoddle, who always seemed intent on competing as an equal, the new manager did not take himself quite so seriously.

He smiled when he was fooled by one sweetly executed drag-back turn from Stephen Gerrard, the Liverpool youngster who has been invited to train with the squad this week. He exulted when a volley by Paul Scholes lodged in the stanchion. "Trevor Brooking in the Nep Stadium," he said.

When he was not taking part, Keegan worked with the players in groups of two, talking to them intently and working on their touch, juggling the ball with Rio Ferdinand and Ray Parlour, then with Phil Neville and Graeme Le Saux.

He did not give away many clues about the line-up, but he gave warning that David Beckham and Parlour could both be in the starting XI.

It is also possible, though, that he will want to perservere with Beckham wide on the right, allowing Scholes to partner Sherwood in the middle with McManaman on the left. The spirit of adventure, after all, is nothing new to him.

"At Newcastle," he said, "I just found myself with the kind of players who, if I asked them to defend, we would have finished fifth bottom of the league and people would have said that was good.

"Because I asked them to go forward and we lost the championship, people said it was disastrous. I am a very positive person. I was a forward and my strengths are in going that way.

"You get a coach of any team and he will start in his strength. We have all got our strengths and weaknesses. I tend to leave the set-pieces and the defensive work to some of the people who are better qualified to do it than I am. That is just an admission that someone else can do it better."

Before he left, he finished in the same upbeat, jaunty manner in which he had begun. This time, Alan Shearer, his captain, was the object of a ringing endorsement and a touch of jovial envy.

"I have got no qualms about Alan Shearer," Keegan said. "He has got a real strong character. You can't knock him but if you do it is at your peril because he is likely to bounce back and prove you wrong.

"That is what great players do. They keep doing it, week in, week out. They get criticised for being just good because people are used to them being exceptionally good or brilliant. I know him, I know what I am going to get from him. People have even asked me if he needs cheering up. Well, I cheered him up yesterday when I missed a three-foot putt on the 17th. He was doing cartwheels."



Keegan makes his point forcibly to a group of England players during the training session at Bisham Abbey yesterday. Photograph: Hugh Routledge

Lloyd leaving after the World Cup

By John Stern

DAVID LLOYD is to step down from his post as England coach after the World Cup in June. Lloyd's decision, first disclosed in *The Times* on Boxing Day, comes five days before he and a 15-man England squad travel to Lahore and then Sharjah for a pre-World Cup triangular series against India and Pakistan. It was always his intention to leave after the World Cup, but privately he has felt that support for him at the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) has ebbed away.

Relations have been strained since last August when he was reprimanded for his comments about the bowling action of Muttiah Muralitharan, the Sri Lanka off spinner, who took 16 England wickets at the Oval.

Lloyd, 52, whose contract was not due to expire until after the four-match Test series against New Zealand in July and August, has had a number of meetings with Lord MacLaurin of Knebworth, the ECB chairman, and Simon Pack, the international teams director, over the past fortnight. He sought assurances about his future, which the ECB could not offer, but his departure was concluded in "entirely amicable circumstances", according to a statement from the board yesterday morning.

Lloyd, who has been approached by television companies to begin his career as a commentator again, said: "I had to think of safeguarding my own future and I was anxious to avoid speculation during the World Cup and distracting the team. I've had a tremendous time and I look forward to completing my tenure with a successful World Cup campaign."

Before becoming England coach at the start of the 1996 season, he was a regular and popular member of BBC Radio's *Test Match Special* team and may now be offered a role with Sky Sports or Channel 4.

Despite a patchy record, he has remained popular with and respected by the players. He guided England to their first win in a five-Test series for 12 years against South Africa last summer. Alec Stewart, the England captain, said: "It's disappointing news, but it's been a pleasure to work with 'Bumble', a coach who is thorough, loyal to his players and completely professional. He has brought passion to the job and it would be great to reward him with the World Cup as a final vote of thanks from the players."

Lloyd can also be credited with dragging the preparations and training of England teams out of the dark ages with his emphasis on fitness consultants and other specialist coaches. "We owe David a huge debt," MacLaurin said. "During his time, he has introduced many innovations which mean that we are now world leaders in several aspects of our approach to the game at international level."

Lloyd's passion for the game, though, has landed him into trouble with the ECB on more than one occasion. In addition to the Muralitharan comments last summer, he



Lloyd: popular

was censured for saying, after a drawn Test in Zimbabwe three winters ago, that "we flippin' murdered 'em".

On the winter tour to Australia, Lloyd was heard less and less publicly as Graham Gooch, the tour manager and *a selector, tended to take much* of the media responsibility.

The obvious candidate to replace Lloyd would be Bob Woolmer, whose position as coach of South Africa also terminates after the World Cup. However, Woolmer, who has had great success with both South Africa and, before, Warwickshire, has often said that he would not be interested in another international coaching job. Gooch and Mike Gatting, another selector, will also be in the frame, although the ECB may look overseas.

Moody called up, page 42

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 1673

ACROSS
1 Round-top loaf (7)
5 Love god (5)
8 (Cook in) vapour (5)
9 Makes up (7)
10 Deformed (9)
12 Nocturnal bird (3)
13 Maximum (6)
14 One hung with bloom along the bough *(Housman)* (6)
17 Uncultured youth (3)
18 Mundane, everyday (9)
20 Unusual: for particular purpose (7)
21 Kashmir river (5)
23 Cut of beef (5)
24 Period of George III's incapacity (7)

DOWN
1 Twig broom (5)
2 Bravo! (Sp.) (3)
3 Elvis's home town (7)
4 Cooking instructions (6)
5 Unsullied (5)
6 Perfumed mixture: medley (3-6)
7 Exhibition (7)
11 A long note (9)
13 Bloom its hero *(Joyce)* (7)
15 Calling: dropping stones (7)
16 Type of monkey: one crying loudly (6)
18 Rapid; intelligent (5)
19 Unpleasant (5)
22 Spaniard: Russian river (3)

SOLUTION TO NO 1672
ACROSS: 2 Constant 6 Poncho 8 Terror 9 Lenient 10 Value 12 Disclaimer 16 Dilettante 18 Loner 20 Bristle 21 Cookie 22 Sesame 23 Shingles
DOWN: 1 Coterie 2 Cornwall 3 Sleeve 4 April 5 Turret 7 Coincide 11 Arkansas 13 Mattress 14 Ptolemy 15 Glacis 17 Irving 19 Naomi

Hide survives the hard knocks before facing title challenge

Srikumar Sen, boxing correspondent, investigates a heavyweight concern

HERBIE HIDE, the World Boxing Organisation (WBO) heavyweight champion, gave his friends and admirers a scare three weeks ago when he was sent to the canvas of his Norwich gym by Danny Williams, of Brixton, a sparring partner. Hide was training for the defence of his title against Orlin Norris, of the United States, at the Albert Hall on April 3.

While it might have appeared to be a setback in his preparations for the contest, Frank Warren, Hide's promoter and Williams's manager, made light of the incident, claiming that it was nothing more than a momentary problem. When I rang Warren yesterday to confirm the incident, he said: "He [Williams] caught him [Hide]. He knocked him down on the floor and he got straight up."

Warren rejected with an emphatic "nonsense!" any suggestion that Hide had suffered something rather more than a flash knockdown. Immediately, Warren rang Williams and told him to explain what exactly had happened.

In a three-way conversation between Warren, Williams and myself, the boxer confirmed that the knockdown of the WBO champion was not a serious one. Williams said: "We sparred. I knocked Herbie down. His trainer came into the ring, got him up. He didn't do nothing more for that day. Then after that, the next day, we sparred again."

John Morris, the secretary of the British Boxing Board of Control, has asked for a report on the matter from the gym. Even though Hide has suffered no after-effects from the punch, having continued with his training without further alarms, Morris said that he would be given an MRI scan before the contest. "It's in the normal course of events," Morris said. "Hide is due a scan."

While it is no disgrace for a champion in training to be put on the floor by a sparring partner, it happens to the best — including Mike Tyson and Lennox Lewis, who was thrown to the floor twice by Jeremy Williams, his sparring partner, in the Pocono Mountains training camp before he met Evander Holyfield earlier this month — Warren can breathe a sigh of relief that Hide did not suffer a worse setback, such as a knockout, a week later, inside 28 days of the contest taking place, which could have put the title bout in jeopardy.

No doubt Hide, having regained his composure and poise in the 33 days between the incident and when he steps into the ring, will give Norris some of the same, but the incident will no doubt call into question Hide's boast about Lewis not being able to call himself the undisputed heavyweight champion while the Norwich man holds the WBO title.

Hide said recently that neither Lewis nor Holyfield deserve the undisputed title and that neither had given of their best in their meeting in New York. He said at a recent press conference: "In any other weight class, they don't call themselves undisputed champion unless they have the four belts — that means the WBO belt as well. Lewis did not give his all and got what he deserved. Holyfield's gone and so too is Lewis. He was so worried about Holyfield that he was frightened of his own shadow. There was no fix. Both were appalling. Lewis did not deserve to win."

Williams is an unranked heavyweight, but one with potential that could take him into the world ratings. He has an unbeaten record of 17 contests, is a knockout artist and will meet Julius Francis, the British heavyweight champion, on a bout on the undercard of Hide's contest with Norris.

Hide, left, is put through his paces during training

